

RINGSIDE REPORT

BALLS OF STEEL

Brave Buglioni beaten but lasts the distance against Chudinov

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We talk to the champion's camp for the latest on the injury and new date

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Lloyd Ellett

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Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDRIIDGE

FORLORN HERO:
Fury can still
rule the world



BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Klitschko's withdrawal can be used to Fury's advantage



Matt Christie
@MattCBoxingNews

Editor

IT'S a great shame for the heavyweight division, the public, and above all Tyson Fury, that Wladimir Klitschko was forced to pull out of their October 24 world title showdown – the most attractive fight in the weight class for three years – less than 48 hours after their gloriously surreal press conference underlined the contest as the must-see event of the year.

Fuelled by uncontrollable and toxic adrenalin, Fury invaded a crowd of unsuspecting media dressed as Batman before embarking on the kind of antics that would have seen him sectioned if he was doing anything other than trying to promote a boxing match. Fury has never struggled with the marketing side of the fight game but, whether you're a fan of his behaviour or not, his run of bad luck when it comes to actually getting the chance to prove himself in the ring is worthy of sympathy. David Haye – via a cut eye and shoulder injury – twice pulled out of showdows with Fury which hit the affable traveller hard, both financially and mentally.

One can only imagine the fired-up British fighter's reaction when he was told on Friday that Klitschko – his target for many years – had withdrawn with a calf injury; my immediate thought was of Begbie going beserk in a hotel room during the closing scenes of *Trainspotting*

when he realised Renton had stolen his money. His reaction on Twitter, which varied from sombre to psychotic, was a curious glimpse into his mind.

The Ukrainian promises that his injury is genuine, and for sanity's sake, Fury must take the champion at his word. Despite an array of conspiracy theories, there is nothing coming from the Klitschko camp to suggest foul play.

"It was a tendon tear on his left calf," Bernd Boente, Klitschko's manager, told *Boxing News* on Tuesday. "It happened during training the day after the press conference [September 24]. We will definitely reschedule, and it will stay in the stadium [Espirito Arena in Dusseldorf] – it is almost sold out – so all the fans will be able to transfer

their tickets. At this moment we're aiming for November 28 but it could be later depending on what the doctor says. We are scheduled to see Dr [Hans-Wilhelm Muller-] Wohlfahrt on Thursday [October 1], who has worked with the German soccer team, and until last season, Bayern Munich. We will then take it from there."

It's crucial that Tyson, still only 27, remains positive during this latest cruel chapter and treats it as a blessing in disguise. Klitschko, for all his muscles, intelligence and cool, is not getting any younger. Injuries and interruptions to his training will not assist him. And Fury should be grateful for that. The challenger, a supreme fighter when all is well in his world, must cage his rage and put it to good use. Find the desire, regain that focus to be a champion, and ensure that both physically and mentally, he is in the shape of his life when opportunity knocks.

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'WE ARE SCHEDULED TO SEE THE DOCTOR ON THURSDAY'



Cover photography
ACTION IMAGES/
ANDREW COULDRIIDGE &
ALEX MORTON

Coming next week

● **PROMOTER**
Eddie Hearn,
the courter of
controversy and
at the heart of
some of Britain's
biggest fights,
has agreed to
answer your
questions.

● **WE'RE**
ringside
in Carson,
California where
Lucas Matthysse
and Viktor
Postol go to war
for the vacant
WBC super-lightweight
title.

● **THE huge**
world title show
in Manchester,
featuring the
likes of Terry
Flanagan and
Liam Smith,
is previewed.

● **WE** get to
know rising star
Jack Catterall
with an in-depth
and fascinating
interview.

● **ENJOY** the
incredible tale
of Harry Reeve
as we launch
'Yesterday's
Heroes',
a weekly story
from the deep
realms of boxing
history.

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● **EVERY** day we grumble and curse. And every now and again things happen that put those trivialities into perspective. The death of 15-year-old Zak Naseem Vali, the son of boxing promoter and manager Asif Vali, to cancer should serve as a reminder to all how precious life is. Since being diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma last September, young Zak fought hard to repel the disease until the very end, often with a smile on his face. His father, who has been working tirelessly to raise money and awareness for charity, said: "We wake up this morning with a son who has gone to heaven. As a family we are devastated but we have to prepare to send him to heaven. The Vali Family wish to thank everyone for the messages and prayers." *Boxing News* would like to offer their sympathies, best wishes, and support to the Vali family during this difficult time. May Zak rest in peace.

● **NEXT** week marks the return of a weekly page dedicated to ex-boxers. If you have any news for the section please email exboxers@gmail.com



Photo: CHARLES ALBERT



BLOWN AWAY

I'm honoured to be named the 2015 British Trainer of the Year



Joe Gallagher

Trainer of the Year

AM gobsmacked. It was nice to just be nominated, when you look at the other nominees and the year they've had, Adam Booth, Jim McDonnell with James DeGale, Tony Borg with Lee Selby, Dominic Ingle with Kell Brook, it was some shortlist.

When you come into this sport, all you strive to be is recognised by your fellow peers and that happened on Friday night and I'm honoured. To be stood in a room full of British boxing legends like John Conteh and Alan Minter, and to receive the award in front of people like that, who I used to sit up and watch, was surreal.

At the time they announced my name I was like, "Bloody hell." You don't know how to react to it. I was taking in deep breaths saying, "S***, bloody hell." Once you get up on the stage under the lights, you can't see anyone, you think you're talking to yourself and you get a bit stuck for words.

Being the first winner of this award, I feel it's about time this award was brought in and I'm really pleased. In America, they have awards for trainers and I'm glad we're doing it now because it shows that recognition for all the hard work that trainers put in, the time they sacrifice.

I think British boxing is the strongest it's ever been on the world stage. Tyson Fury could win a belt, Amir Khan could win another, Tony Bellew could win one, and we've got the likes of Brook, Jamie McDonnell and Scott Quigg already holding titles. We've got some fantastic fighters.

Emanuel Steward was someone I looked up to. He came down to [Phil Martin's] Champs Camp Gym in Moss Side, where I was working alongside Phil. Emanuel taught us both a lot and it meant a lot to Phil. Every opportunity I get, I pick the brains of great trainers like Dan Birmingham, Ronnie Shields and Freddie Roach, whose gym we visit quite a lot. I learn from the best.

I think we've usually looked to American trainers with rose-tinted glasses but over the last few years we've shown we have some fantastic trainers on these shores. There are trainers who weren't on the list who have had some fantastic achievements like Graham Everett, Johnny Eames and Jimmy Tibbs. We're rich in form with British boxers but we're very rich in form with boxing trainers, they're world class.

I came away with about 10 programmes from the night to send to my family in Ireland and Australia, it's a proud moment. I first attended those awards 21 years ago, and Phil had passed away in May that year so the Board honoured him with an award for his contribution to boxing. It was a sad evening that year, and to think I would be back in that room 21 years later picking up a Trainer of the Year award, I know Phil was looking down on me with pride.

I THINK BRITISH BOXING IS THE STRONGEST IT'S EVER BEEN ON THE WORLD STAGE



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EUBANK EXCLUSIVE

Watch Chris Eubank Jnr outline his plans for world domination as he joins Matchroom



FRAMPTON-QUIGG

Eddie Hearn reveals the latest news on the talks to make the super-bantam barnstormer



BRITAIN'S BEST

We speak to GB's elite amateurs ahead of the World championships in Doha, Qatar

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TWEETS

@FRANKBUGLIONI

Absolute honour to fight for the world title. Massive thanks to the supporters and a world-class team at Celtic Warriors gym.

A crestfallen

FRANK BUGLIONI remains respectful after his valiant effort is not enough to dethrone WBA 'regular' super-middleweight champion Fedor Chudinov.

@MCGUIGANS_GYM

Let's hope Buglioni is ok after that beating.

Amazing courage.

Trainer

SHANE MCGUIGAN shows concern for Frank's health after the savage affair with Chudinov, but praises his bravery.

@BRONZEBOMBER

S/O to Johann Duhaupas for accepting the challenge and being such a tough opponent. You did your country proud bro.

Heavyweight titlist DEONTAY WILDER gives credit to his overmatched opponent for lasting longer than expected.

@ANTHONYFJOSHUA

Wilder had an entertaining fight. His opponent was durable and displayed good work! Wilder can gain experience from it and go again.

Heavyweight prospect

ANTHONY JOSHUA gives his verdict on potential future opponent Wilder.

@ADRIENBRONER

While everybody is out partying or in the house asleep I'm out putting work in. ADRIEN BRONER insists he has eliminated past distractions.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

A BOXING MECCA



WHILE on vacation recently in New York, I decided to make the two-hour pilgrimage upstate to the town of Catskill on the Hudson river. After marvelling at the press cuttings of a peak Mike Tyson on the wall at the Cus D'Amato gym, I spent time under the supervision of trainer George Young, working on the very same Willie and slip bags that the likes of Tyson, José Torres and Floyd Patterson had used.

As I showered and bid my farewells, two local teenagers entered the gym and to my astonishment seemed blissfully unaware that it was a boxing gym, and seemed not to have even heard of Tyson. Make no mistake, if this can happen in a town like Catskill, the same process of forgetting our traditions can happen in the UK, and that's a dangerous low blow for boxing in my book.

Matt Long, Burton ABC and Shinfields Gym

HATS OFF TO DODD

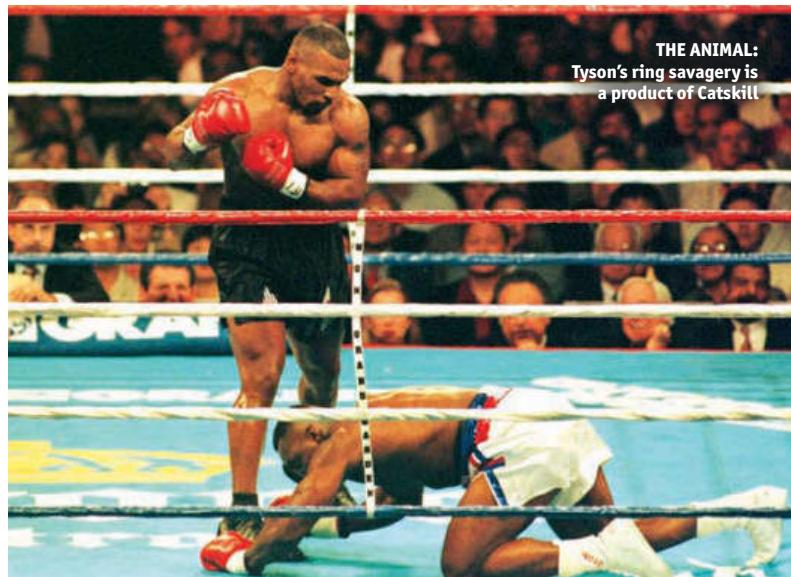
WHAT a wonderful night's boxing the fans witnessed at Liverpool's Olympia on September 19.

Stephen Smith, of that wonderful boxing family, earned the right to challenge for the IBF super-featherweight title. He gave a brilliant display to defeat Devis Boschiero.

There were also two wonderful prospects on show, in Marcus Morrison and Zelfa Barrett. These two boys look really special. However Sean "Masher" Dodd produced the best performance of the night in defeating Gary Buckland. It was a tremendous battle.

Tommy Dix, Handbridge

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/NICK POTTS



THE ANIMAL:
Tyson's ring savagery is a product of Catskill

WHICH SMITH IS NO. 1?

WHAT a terrific showing from Stephen Smith, dismantling the durable Devis Boschiero on September 19. Smith boxed brilliantly, catching Boschiero numerous times – his body shots were superb. It's so difficult to decide which of the four Smith brothers is the best fighter!

Patch Hammond, Norwich

FAREWELL TO JIMMY BREWER

MY grandad, Jimmy Brewer, sadly passed away on September 13. He commenced his boxing career in 1950, at the age of 18. Boxing News reported on his first ever fight – a draw against Joe Parker – and many of his other bouts. He was an

exciting and respected bantamweight in Britain.

Tracy Brewer Reeves, via e-mail

WHAT WERE THEY WATCHING?

I CANNOT believe some respected boxing commentators believed Tomoki Kameda beat Jamie McDonnell in their rematch in Texas on September 6. Kameda took the first round and maybe nicked a couple of close ones thereafter, but for me, Jamie won superbly with another accomplished performance. To travel halfway around the world, not once but twice, and handily defeat a world-class fighter is a brilliant achievement. Well done, Jamie!

Gavin Brown, Ayrshire

Photo: ACTION IMAGES

WE ASKED...



SHOULD THE REFEREE HAVE STOPPED BUGLIONI AGAINST CHUDINOV?



DANIEL TUTT

No.

ARCHIE MENDOZA ANENIAS

The fight should have never happened in the first place.

SAM HAWORTH

I don't think so. Buglioni was never in serious trouble and was the puncher of the two, so there was always the small chance of a one-hit winner.

GLENN SPEERS

I think by the time Frank started to take a bit of sustained punishment, the finishing line was in sight. I think the ref and Frank's corner were maybe right to let him go the distance. Just.

DAVID THOMPSON

Yeah, at any point from round nine onwards.



GRUELING:
Buglioni [left] takes punishment from Chudinov



HEAD-2-HEAD

MANNY PACQUIAO VS LUCAS MATTHYSSE

Who wins this super-lightweight clash and why?

RALPH SALVADOR
Pacquiao outboxes Matthysse.

PAUL MASON
Pacquiao all day, with his speed and the amount of punches he throws.

MARTINMATT HERNANDEZ
Lucas. He has the same power as Juan Manuel Marquez, who knocked Pacquiao out. Lucas would do the same.

JOEL GUIANG CARRERA
Matthysse is tailor-made for Pacquiao. Manny wins by knockout.

PHIL DAVIES
'Pac Man' would destroy Lucas – even a 75 per cent-fit Pacquiao would win against Matthysse.

LAURENT GRANDIN
Very interesting fight. I'm with Pacquaio, but he would need to be careful of the power of Matthysse. But I think the speed of Pacquiao can make the difference. Pacquaio by UD or late stoppage.

THE PANEL

DO YOU BELIEVE VLADIMIR KLITSCHKO'S INJURY IS GENUINE?



Dave Coldwell
Trainer, manager and promoter

It's a massive coincidence that he injured himself right after the press conference. In all my years in boxing, I've not known a coincidence like that to happen, so I find it hard to believe.



Steve Cunningham

Heavyweight contender
I believe it is. You can't say he's scared of anybody or running from anybody, plus it's mandatory so he can't avoid the fight. If it wasn't genuine, prolonging the fight would be worse because he's getting older.



Scott Cardle

British lightweight king
I do. Klitschko's a man of his word and he's shown that in the past, I don't think he's scared of Tyson Fury or anything like that, so I believe he really is injured.



Gary Lockett
Respected trainer

I'm undecided, but it's suspicious that he became injured days after the press conference. It seems fishy to me and to be fair, Tyson Fury said Klitschko would pull out.

WHO IS BRITAIN'S BEST FIGHTER, POUND-FOR-POUND?

Dave Coldwell
Trainer, manager and promoter

On potential ability, I would say Kell Brook but he's not had the big fights yet. Amir Khan has been there and beaten the better guys, so at the moment I would say Khan.

Steve Cunningham
Heavyweight contender

That's a difficult question. I would have to say Amir Khan though, he's the man. I would love to see him fight Kell Brook. Anthony Joshua could be up there in a few years once he's tested.

Scott Cardle
British lightweight king

Purely based on talent and ability, I would say Callum Smith. On November 7 [when he faces Rocky Fielding] people will see just how good he is. I think he's up there as the best in Britain.

Gary Lockett
Respected trainer

There are so many talents. Obviously we have prospects like Anthony Joshua, but guys like Kell Brook, Amir Khan and James DeGale stand out for me. I would say, on current form, Brook is the best.

'IT'S A MASSIVE COINCIDENCE THAT KLITSCHKO INJURED HIMSELF'

10 COUNT

BRITISH BRILLIANCE

George Gigney lists the greatest BBBofC Fighter of the Year award winners since its 1984 inception

1. LENNOX LEWIS (1993, 2002)

An Olympic gold medallist and the former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, Lewis scaled the dizziest heights in boxing.

2. JOE CALZAGHE (2001, 2006, 2008)

The gifted Welshman scalped the likes of Jeff Lacy, Bernard Hopkins and Roy Jones Jnr before going out on top, and still undefeated, in 2008.

3. NASEEM HAMED (1996)

The flashy Sheffield southpaw was one of Britain's most talented boxers and in '96 made four successful defences of his world featherweight title.

4. CARL FROCH (2009, 2012, 2013, 2014)

With an iron-clad chin and heavy hands, Froch won numerous world titles.

5. RICKY HATTON (2003, 2005, 2007)

"The Hitman" recruited legions of fans during his brilliant career and his 2005 win over Kostya Tszyu was unforgettable.

6. NIGEL BENN (1995)

One of Britain's toughest ever fighters, Benn's 1995 was punctuated by an emphatic, yet tragic, world title-retaining stoppage win over Gerald McClellan.

7. BARRY McGUIGAN (1984, 1985)

"The Clones Cyclone" remains wildly popular, having stormed to the world featherweight title in 1985.

8. DENNIS ANDRIES (1986, 1989, 1990)

The Guyana-born Hackney slugger held the WBC light-heavyweight title three times, though could not move beyond domestic level at cruiser.

9. AMIR KHAN (2011)

The quick-fisted Bolton man continues to chase down big fights but has already proven his class at the elite level on numerous occasions.

10. DAVE McAULEY (1991)

The gritty Northern Irishman achieved his dream in 1989 when he lifted a world flyweight title at the third attempt.

THE WEEK

What's been going
on in the boxing world
over the last seven days



TRENDING #KLITSCHKOFURY / #BATMAN / #THEWISEGUY / #RIPZAK / #WILDERDUHAUPAS



CAPED CRUSADER

WEDNESDAY, September 23, 2015

JUST when it seems like **Tyson Fury's** scheduled challenge to heavyweight king **Wladimir Klitschko** on October 24 could not get any more appealing, the mischievous Brit rocks up to the London press conference dressed as Batman and wrestles his cousin **Hughie Fury**, aka the Joker, to the floor [above]. The champion's hard-earned world title belts join them on the deck as chaos of the most enthralling kind ensues.

The Ukrainian shares the audience's bemusement before putting on his business face and indulging in an intense stare-down that suggest he is looking forward

to hammering some respect into his unbeaten opponent.

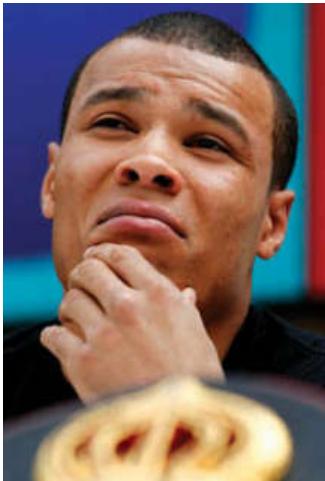
"I'm doing the most tough preparation I've ever had," Klitschko reveals.

HONEYGHAN'S SECRET

Former world welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan calls the *Boxing News* office to divulge he is managing Nigerian heavyweight prospect **Onoriode "The Secret" Ehwarieme**.

The jovial Jamaican-born star explains he hopes to match the 6ft 9in 27-year-old, 11-0 (10) and a 2008 Olympian, with **Dereck Chisora** in the near future.

Honeyghan, 50, adds that veteran US promoter Don King is planning to meet Ehwarieme.



BIG PLANS: Eubank Jnr is targeting world titles as a Matchroom fighter

FRIDAY, September 25, 2015

AS the boxing media gather to hear Matchroom make a 'special announcement' at Trinity House near Tower Bridge, some astonishing news steals their attention. It emerges that Wladimir Klitschko has inadvertently repaid Tyson Fury for all of Wednesday's mayhem - and then some - by pulling out of their fight. An injury is given as the official reason, but some respected journalists question its legitimacy after Fury proved himself to be

THE LATE SHOW

THURSDAY, September 24, 2015

ALTHOUGH it lacks the pantomime madness of the previous day, the final press conference to promote **Frank Buglioni's** shot at **Fedor Chudinov** proves entertaining enough. The presence of Chudinov's star trainer **Roy Jones Jnr** is a treat for some, while promoter Frank Warren turning up nearly an hour late (due to traffic) does not appear to amuse the Russian's manager, Vlad Hrunov.

DeGALE'S MAIDEN DEFENCE

It looks increasingly likely that **James DeGale's** [below] first defence of his IBF super-middle title will come against ex-champion,

and Canadian megastar, **Lucian Bute**. The 12-rounder, which looks like a lucrative and highly winnable venture for the champion, could take place on November 14 in Quebec; the rumour mill churns out tales that light-heavyweight starlets **Artur Beterbiev** and **Sullivan Barrera** could clash in an IBF eliminator on the undercard. We like the sound of that.

KATSIDIS: BREAKING BAD

Horrible to read that Australian slugger **Michael Katsidis** was caught with an ice pipe - for the consumption of crystal meth - five years after his brother died from a drug and alcohol overdose. The 35-year-old apologises to fans via newspaper, *Gold Coast Bulletin*.



KLITSCHKO BAILS ON BATMAN

the craziest, and potentially most dangerous opponent Klitschko has ever encountered less than 48 hours previously. Sympathy for Fury is the only thing everyone can agree upon.

As the smoke from that bomb clears, Chris Eubank Snr strolls in wearing tapered jeans and pointed shoes; a curious combo that make his feet look longer than his legs. He's followed by his son **Chris Eubank Jnr**, trainer Ronnie Davies, and Adam Booth. All that's left to do is introduce **Andy Lee**, and we've got one heck of a story.

Alas, Junior will not be taking on Lee; it's revealed that Booth has joined Team Eubank and the talented Brightonian has signed with Eddie Hearn's Matchroom. He will make his debut on the October 24 Sheffield show, headed by **Kell Brook-Diego Chaves**, which Hearn understands will still be a pay-per-view show.

That night, over in Hammersmith, Hearn accepts the absent Brook's gong at the British Boxing Board of Control awards, for Boxer of the Year, to cap a wonderful event [see page 11].

“QUOTE OF THE WEEK”

‘I BETTER BACK OFF VLADIMIR KLITSCHKO BEFORE HE GETS THE JITTERS AND DOESN’T TURN UP LIKE HIS COMRADE DAVID HAYE’

Tyson Fury senses nerves in Vladimir Klitschko as they face off for the Sky Sports cameras two days before the fight is postponed



R.I.P. ZAK VALI

SATURDAY, September 26, 2015

THE death of Asif Vali's son, 15-year-old Zak Naseem Vali, is truly devastating news. Asif is a respected figure in the game and the tributes to his son flood in.

Amir Khan says: "Thoughts and prayers go out to @asifvali and his family, great kid will never be forgotten."

Peter Fury says: "Very sad news about young Zac Vali passing away today. We get tied up in daily life only to realise faith and family matter."

Heavyweight **Eddie Chambers** says: "Prayers go out to great friend @asifvali and his family. RIP Zak."

Anthony Crolla says: "Heart-breaking news about young Zak Vali. Thoughts are with @asifvali and his family. God bless x."

Luke Campbell says: "Thoughts and prayers are with @asifvali and family. I can't imagine what they're going through #RIPZak x."

MALIGNAGGI IS BACK

New York's two-weight world titlist **Paul Malignaggi** confirms plans to challenge for the European 147lb title, due to his Italian heritage, after he defeats overmatched Hungarian **Laszlo Fazekas** over eight rounds in Milan.

It is the 34-year-old's first appearance in a European boxing ring since referee Mickey Vann ordered him to chop off his fake dreadlocks during a rematch win over Lovemore Ndou in May 2008.

CRYING WOLF

SUNDAY, September 27, 2015

DEONTAY WILDER [above] announces he now wants to fight Vladimir Klitschko after his latest win [see pages 18-19], so that he can prove he is the world's premier heavyweight. Given that Klitschko is crooked, and planning to fight Fury when fit (late 2015 is thought to be the likely rescheduled date), Wilder's latest plea to fight the best might be another case of crying wolf. More encouraging, and realistic, is the WBC's insistence that "The Bronze Bomber" will have to fight his mandatory contender, **Alexander Povetkin**. All the Russian has to do for the fight with Wilder to be ordered is defeat **Mariusz Wach** on November 4.

IOKA CRUISES TO VICTORY

At the EDION Arena in Osaka, Japan, WBA 'regular' world fly champion **Kazuto Ioka** notches his fourth straight victory with a lopsided 12-round unanimous verdict over **Roberto Sosa**. The Argentine challenger, who holds a victory over gifted IBF super-fly titlist **Zolani Tete**, struggles to land as the champion controls centre ring and boxes his way to success via scores of 120-108, and 119-109 (twice). It is only Sosa's second appearance outside of Argentina.

Katsunari Takayama also triumphs when he halts **Ryuji Hara** in the eighth round to defend his IBF strawweight belt for the second time.

FURY'S NEW GOAL

MONDAY, September 28, 2015

NEVER one to let the grass grow under his feet, Tyson Fury announces a new project. He plans to be Morecambe's MP. "Morecambe was a booming place back in the 40s, 50s, and 60s," Fury says. "Today it's mainly for old-age pensioners, heroin addicts, crackheads and thugs, and I want to clean the place up."

Every morning he invites members of the public to join him on a run along the seafront, starting at the VVV Gym, at 7am. This morning he stops and talks to a homeless man, offering him food and drink as he goes.

"It was quite upsetting to see my fellow man lying on the floor."

MOORE'S HORROR

News that 34-year-old Gary Hutch, the nephew of crime kingpin Gerry "The Monk" Hutch, was murdered in the Costa del Sol on Friday drifts into the sporting media when it is reported that the victim was the intended target of former European super-welterweight champion Jamie Moore's shooting last year. Moore was out in Marbella last August, training **Matthew Macklin**, when he was shot five times and left for dead. "I was shocked when I heard that [about Hutch]," Moore told the *Manchester Evening News*, who broke the story. "I have got nerve damage and I can't move my foot. I have still got quite a lot of pain."

GB BOXING TAKE OFF

TUESDAY, September 29, 2015

THE GB team fly out to Doha, Qatar for the amateur boxing World championships today. It's a young squad but one that has already been successful in Europe. However, with the likes of Kazakhstan and Cuba waiting to test them, this competition is as hard as it gets outside of the Olympic Games.

GB light-heavy **Joshua Buatsi** [below, on left] chases glory in one of the championship's most formidable divisions, that includes the likes of Ireland's European gold medallist Joe Ward, and brilliant Cuban Julio La Cruz.

"It's going to be hard so I'm preparing myself so whoever I'm up against I can deal with," Buatsi tells *Boxing News* before boarding the plane. "I've trained hard so hopefully everything will go right."

THE LAST WORD

The last seven days have been all about Tyson Fury and as *Boxing News* prepare to go to press, we talk to Klitschko's manager, Bernd Boente, for the latest on the mysterious injury, and whether the fight will be re-arranged. "Oh yes, definitely, definitely," Boente assures us, and it must be said, he sounds genuine. Whether it takes place on November 28, as is their wish, or early in 2016, Fury will get his shot at Klitschko. Perhaps he should put his plans to run for Parliament on the back burner for now.



FORMER pound-for-pound king **Roy Jones Jnr** could vie for a world title in a fifth weight class later this year.

The 46-year-old has won world honours at every weight from middle through to heavyweight, except in the cruiserweight division.

However, he plans to make it a full set before the end of 2015 and told *Boxing News* that he may retire soon after.

"I should be fighting for the WBA Super world cruiserweight title in December, after that I may do one or two more [fights] then ride off into the sunset," he told us.

Consecutive losses to **Danny Green** (rsf 1), **Bernard Hopkins** (ud 12) and **Denis Lebedev** (ko 10) between 2009 and 2011 looked to be the end of the Pensacola fighter's glittering career.

Jones, to the widespread dismay of fans, continued to fight and has won eight on the bounce since, albeit against unheralded opposition, most recently dispatching **Eric Watkins** inside six rounds in August.

The WBA currently regard Lebedev as their cruiserweight champion, though the governing body recognise Super champions alongside their 'regular' champions in several weight classes.

Lebedev is scheduled to defend his belt against **Lateef Kayode** in November, meaning Jones would fight for a vacant Super title against an unnamed opponent, though *Boxing News* believes Wales' former world title-holder **Enzo Maccarinelli** could be in the opposite corner.

Jones has also begun training Russian fighters, having recently become a citizen of the country, such as WBA 'regular' world super-middleweight champion **Fedor Chudinov**, who retained his title against **Frank Buglioni** on Saturday night (September 26 - see pages 14-17).

Photo: ACTION IMAGES



HANGING AROUND:
Jones is refusing to quit despite being years past his best

ROY JONES' TITLE SHOT

The faded great tells George Gigney that he has a crack at a cruiser belt looming

"You get nervous as a trainer because your fighter has to go to a place that no one else goes to, except their opponent," he said.

"It's do or die in boxing, but when you've got another guy's life in your hands and you have to be the guy that makes the decisions, whether he stays in the fight or not, it makes you nervous."

Retired two-weight world champion Steve Collins, who was in Buglioni's corner, is a man many wanted Jones to

face earlier in his career, but Roy revealed the pair could still meet.

"Steve Collins is a great guy. Unfortunately the fight didn't happen, but we would have fought one another because we're warriors, we're old school fighters and we'd fight whenever, whoever, so it wasn't because of him and me that it didn't happen," he noted.

"He still says that it's not out of the realms of possibility, so we'll see what happens."

WILLIAMS TRAINING AGAIN

The ride isn't over for the Commonwealth champion, writes George Gigney

COMMONWEALTH super-welterweight champion **Liam Williams** has returned to training after recovering from a hand injury.

The unbeaten Welshman badly damaged a knuckle on his right hand earlier in his career and underwent surgery after his first-round stoppage win over **Michael Lomax** last November.

Williams has not been able to

fight since and was initially told he could never box again due to the severity of the injury.

However, after seeking a second and third opinion, the 23-year-old has rehabilitated his hand and is back in the gym.

"He's been back punching for a couple of weeks now and he hopes to be out again in November," Williams' trainer, Gary Lockett, revealed to *Boxing News*.

"It's wonderful to have him back in the gym, he's such a special talent and he was devastated when he was told he couldn't box again,

it was the worst period of his life.

"He's been keeping himself in shape but we're so happy to have him back in the gym and getting his career back on track."

Williams plans to defend his Commonwealth strap before moving on to fight for the vacant British title in the near future.

Liam Smith vacated that title to pursue a world belt.

"There are some great matches to be made at Liam's weight and I believe he wins them all. I can't wait for him to be back in the ring," Lockett said.



IT AIN'T OVER: Williams [left] is delighted he can box again

A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

The 2015 BBBofC awards dinner highlights the strength of British boxing, writes George Gigney

THE 32nd annual British Boxing Board of Control (BBBofC) awards dinner took place on Friday (September 25) to celebrate another successful year for British boxing.

The sold-out event, with 575 people in attendance, at the Novotel Hotel in Hammersmith, London had a particularly warm feel to it after a stand-out season.

The awards recognised achievements made in the 12 months from August 2014, and the shortlist and eventual winners were decided by the awards committee, made up of BBBofC General Secretary Robert Smith, former Commonwealth light-heavyweight champion Nicholas Piper, *Boxing News*' Matt Christie and Danny Flexen, plus former *BN* editor Tris Dixon, journalist Glynn Evans and ex-WBO cruiserweight champion Johnny Nelson.

IBF welterweight champion **Kell Brook** walked away with the coveted Boxer of the Year accolade, having won his title in America before defending it twice in England after recovering from a knife attack in Tenerife.

Efforts were made for the Sheffield star to collect the award himself, but understandably he could not attend as he is in full training camp in Spain, preparing for his next defence against **Diego Chaves** on October 24. Brook's promoter, Eddie Hearn, collected the award on his behalf.

Also shortlisted for the prize were **James DeGale**, **Carl Frampton**, **Amir Khan**, **Jamie McDonnell** and **Lee Selby**, who were all in attendance, as well as **Scott Quigg**, who was out of the country. That all nominees either hold or have held a 'world' title is testament to the current strength of British boxing.

Overseas Boxer of the Year went to Venezuela's **Jorge Linares**, who successfully defended his WBC lightweight title against **Kevin Mitchell** in May, a scrap that was nominated for Contest of the Year.

Photos: CHARLES ALBERT



That trophy went to the knockdown-filled clash between **Dave Ryan** and **John Wayne Hibbert**, which Ryan prevailed in after twice rising from the canvas.

Manchester's Joe Gallagher scooped the inaugural *Boxing News* Trainer of the Year award, while his charge, **Anthony Crolla**, was given the Achievement award after recovering from career-threatening injuries suffered in an attempt to stop a burglary, to fight to a draw with world lightweight champion **Darleys Perez**.

Former world light-heavyweight champion John Conteh, also in attendance, was given this year's Special Recognition award.

Chris Sanigar, who helped guide Selby to his IBF featherweight title, received the Sir Henry Cooper Services to Boxing award.

The Dennis Mancini Trophy, awarded to excellent Commonwealth champions, went to cruiserweight **Ovill McKenzie**.

A raffle was also held, with prizes including a glove worn by the great former heavyweight king Jack Dempsey.

Thousands of pounds were raised for the Board's charity, which helps ex-boxers who have fallen on hard times.

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COMING TO AMERICA:
IBF feather champion
Selby makes his US
debut this month

'SOMETHING COMES OVER ME WHEN I'M IN THE RING'

Lee Selby is arguably Britain's most talented fighter and here he outlines his plans to conquer the world to Matt Christie

L

EE SELBY'S rise to the top of his sport has been a delight. Family tragedy threatened young Selby's focus but by the time he stunned Stephen Smith in 2011 to win the British featherweight title, the Welshman had found his way. Earlier this year he trounced Evgeny Gradovich to win the IBF title, a coronation so impressive that

it pricked the attention of one of the most powerful men in boxing, adviser Al Haymon. He makes his debut on Haymon's revolutionary Premier Boxing Champions against the revered Fernando Montiel in Arizona on October 14. Before he left to conquer the USA, he stopped off at London's Welsh Centre to speak to the media.

How does it feel to be world champion and have journalists queuing up to talk to you?

Great, especially considering where I came from, where I started, right at the bottom. I worked my way from there all the way to the top. It's a wonderful feeling, but there's still a lot more to come.

Do you enjoy all this attention? Or would you rather be at home?

Neither. I'd rather be in the gym [laughs]. I'd rather be sparring or something. This [the press conferences] comes with the job. It comes with the territory of being world champion and I'm starting to get more accustomed to it now.

Not many people thought you'd beat Stephen Smith for the British title in 2011 - myself included - but you were a revelation. Looking back to then, and how far you've come since, how much has your life changed?

I get recognised a lot more. But in myself, as a person, nothing has changed. I'm still working hard in the gym, I'm still a family man. I'm a hermit, I stay in my house and only leave it when I'm training basically. But when I do go out, I do get approached quite regularly. You can imagine what it's like in my hometown of Barry, people come up and ask me how my training is going. It is nice. It's a great feeling.

You're a very friendly guy, but naturally very quiet. That's the opposite to your character in the ring. Where does that ring persona come from?

People like Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard were always on the television when I was growing up. But yeah, people are shocked when they speak to me after seeing me fight. I don't know

what comes over me in the ring, it's an alter ego or something and I'm the same in the gym sparring and stuff. I honestly don't know what happens to me [laughs].

Does that sense of showmanship all come naturally?

From the moment I start walking to the ring, something comes over me. I get covered in goosebumps. It's just like fight mode. My last few fights I've been thinking more in the ring, seeing different things but earlier in my career I'd watch my fights back on tape and I didn't even realise I'd done some of that stuff.

Is that when you're at your happiest, when you're in the ring?

Most definitely. I'm most happiest when I'm in the gym sparring I'd say. I'm doing what I love but there's no pressure of losing and that's when I'm at my best - in the gym.

There is a sense of a boxing revolution in America with Al Haymon's Premier Boxing Champions. How does it feel to be involved in that?

It's amazing. It's a massive opportunity for me that not many people get, so I intend to take it.

Fernando Montiel is a good fighter and a respected name. Is this an indication of the direction you'll be heading in?

I don't want to be picking out nice easy defences like most champions do for their first defence. I'm fighting a former three-weight world champion in my first defence. I'm fighting this guy in America on free TV, so if I beat him it should change my profile a bit.

Are Vasyl Lomachenko and Gary Russell Jnr realistic targets?

Yes, I want to fight the best. Russell Jnr and Leo Santa Cruz are advised by Al Haymon, so they're fights that can easily be made.

Now you've made this step, will your career be based in America or will there be defences back at home as well?

I think the majority of the fights will be in America. I'm looking to have three fights a year;

two fights in America and one in the UK.

Domestically, are there any rivals out there for you?

Only Josh Warrington really. Mitchell Smith has spoke highly of me and I respect that but I don't think he's ready for a world title fight yet. Warrington is a big-money fight, he's got a good following.

You've achieved your ambition of being a world champion. What else is left for you?

I want to be a legend!



KING OF THE WORLD: Selby celebrates winning the IBF crown in May

'I DON'T KNOW WHAT COMES OVER ME. IT'S AN ALTER EGO'

ACTION

Reports from
the best fights
around the world

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★ GOOD ★★ FAIR ★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

Reporters' star ratings for main events and undercards are based on in-ring entertainment, competitiveness and whether overall expectation was met

TRUE GRIT

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/ALEX MORTON



NO SURRENDER:
Buglioni [right] tries
to pierce the
champion's guard

Brave
Buglioni is
courageous
in defeat

WEMBLEY
SEPTEMBER 26
★★★★★ MAIN EVENT
★★★★★ UNDERCARD
★★★★★ ATMOSPHERE



George
Gigney
RINGSIDE

LAST week,
Frank Buglioni
told *Boxing News*
that his surprise
opportunity at
Fedor Chudinov's
WBA 'regular' world

super-middleweight title came about
either because he earned it or because

his promoter, Frank Warren, had pulled off a masterstroke. Many thought it was the latter, and while he may not have shown elite-level ability at the SSE Arena, the popular Enfield slugger displayed a level of bravery only a chance at world honours could conjure.

If world championships were won with sheer guts and courage, Buglioni would have walked away with a brand new belt. Unfortunately for him, the accolade requires a level of technical astuteness he did not have on the night.

Having been stopped by Sergey Khomitsky in April last year and drawing with the limited Lee Markham earlier this year, Buglioni's chances looked slim against the unbeaten Russian, who had

travelled to Germany to win the title from Felix Sturm in May. The consensus seemed to be that Frank would fold inside the distance, but the "Wise Guy" shipped everything the champion could dish out to hear the final bell. He even sent the visitor to the canvas, albeit from a punch after the bell that ended the sixth round, resulting in referee Terry O'Connor docking him two points. There were times when Chudinov's vicious salvos came close to stopping the Londoner, but Buglioni kept digging his heels in and firing back, much to the delight of the partisan crowd.

The 26-year-old was forced onto the back foot in the opening round and his three-and-a-half inch height advantage



Wilder-Duhaupas

Deontay dominates gutsy underdog

PAGE 18



Estrada-Marquez

Knockdowns galore as champion impresses

PAGE 20



Davies Jnr-Avakanian

Kirkby prospect savages Georgian

PAGE 21

became a footnote as Chudinov snapped Buglioni's head back with a couple of stiff jabs. That punch would prove to be a standout weapon in the Russian's arsenal. Frank circled the stalking champion, who refused to give the hometown hero any breathing room, and when a series of uppercuts drew blood from Buglioni's nose in the second, things looked bleak.

However, whenever he was backed into a corner, the challenger would defiantly send sweat spraying from Chudinov's head with his left hook.

By round five, Frank's constant movement looked to be taking its toll as his mouth began to hang open, so he elected to stand his ground and trade with the bullish Chudinov. Egged on by his coach, former pound-for-pound king Roy Jones Jnr, Fedor bludgeoned the challenger's exposed cranium with thudding hooks.

Buglioni's hands stayed low in the sixth and his output dropped, allowing Chudinov to fire off punches that would have broken a lesser man. In the dying seconds of the stanza, Buglioni once again fought back with a combination of his own and visibly wobbled Chudinov with a right hand just as the bell tolled. Invigorated by the raucous crowd, Buglioni hurled another right, sending the champion to the floor. It seemed more an overzealous attempt at pulling off the upset rather than a genuine infringement, but O'Connor allowed Chudinov time to recover and docked Buglioni two points at the start of the seventh. His already mammoth task had become near impossible.

He seemed to come to that conclusion himself and fought the rest of the fight



HIGH-FLYER:
Jenkinson [right] celebrates victory as Pettitt looks on

predominantly in the trenches, drawing on every resource he had to clobber Chudinov whenever he could muster the strength, exposing some defensive chinks in Fedor's armour.

Wobbled in the 10th, Buglioni looked a spent man but refused to go into a shell. If he was going out, he would do it swinging. However, his allegedly suspect chin held firm, he slammed his gloves together and beckoned his adversary on.

A stirring exchange in the closing stages brought the crowd to its feet and as the bell ended the contest, the arena erupted in applause for Buglioni's heroics. He had undoubtedly lost the fight, but answered any and all questions over his mettle.

He lost on scores of 120-106 (Oliver Brien), 117-109 (Ingo Barabas) and 118-108 (Victor Simons), however, Buglioni will have won over some of the critics who begrimed him his chance, and Steve Collins, the old warrior who had prepared Buglioni alongside his brother Paschal, was full of pride.

Frank has time on his side and with Markham facing Luke Blackledge for the

'IT'S STILL EARLY AND RAW BUT I'LL GO BACK AND START AGAIN'

"I had a fantastic opportunity for the world title and I gave it my best. I stuck it with one of the world's top super-middleweights, but on the night he was the better man," he said afterwards.

"While it's hard to take defeat I believe that I showed my fighting heart and

courage. I'll be back from this, it's still early and raw, but I'll go back to the drawing board and start again."

Lincoln's

Bobby Jenkinson pulled off an upset when he stopped

Erith favourite **Lewis Pettitt** in 11 rounds to claim the vacant Commonwealth super-bantamweight crown.

The contest started at a frenetic pace which would rarely drop throughout, with both men demanding respect in the early stages.

By the fourth, Jenkinson's work had become a little ragged and Pettitt began to take over.

A strong seventh round for Lewis alluded to an 18th win for the Londoner, but Bobby kept rallying back, forcing >



STYLISH WINNER:
Chudinov poses with his belt and waistcoat

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/ALEX MORTON



UNDERDOG:
Jenkinson [right]
breaks down Pettitt

to outpoint Brazil's **Marcelo Luiz Nascimento** over 10. The cumbersome visitor looked clumsy in his work, missing with looping uppercuts and hooks but evading Chisora's laboured assaults by leaning back. The Londoner prodded Nascimento's stomach with his jab in the early stages and rarely landed his right hand over the top, a shot he once favoured.

Chisora did have his moments, buckling Nascimento's legs a handful of times, but the durable Marcelo denied Dereck an early win. By the last, Chisora looked bored and was awarded a score of 99-91 on referee Jeff Hinds' card for what was little more than a glorified spar.

Strangely, talented Penge welter **Bradley Skeete** was not a part of the BoxNation broadcast and boxed after the main event on this Queensberry Promotions show. His 10-round defence of the WBO European title proved even more peculiar when challenger **Mark Thompson** suffered a dislocated hip in the third.

Skeete was in control up until that point, boxing off his accurate jab and making Thompson frequently miss. Heywood's Thompson then complained about an injured hip in the third, momentarily stalling the action.

Once they resumed hostilities, an infuriated Skeete stormed in and forced Thompson to take a knee. He rose, and referee Steve Gray waved it off at 1-07.

Los Angeles-based Irishman **Jamie Kavanagh** kept his rebuilding job on course with a wide points victory over late-substitute **Reynaldo Mora**, of Nicaragua. An upset knockout loss to Daniel Ruiz two years ago halted the Dublin fighter's progression but he has now won four on the bounce since.



RINGSIDE NOTES

● AFTER originally being postponed due to an injury to Chudinov, the fight took place on the 23rd birthday of Buglioni's younger brother Peter, who was ringside.

● HOLLYWOOD A-list Jeremy Piven was ringside for the action and congratulated his friend Chisora after his win.

● STRAIGHT after his loss to Romaeo, Adaway made a beeline for Mitchell and Jez Smith, and Enzo Maccarinelli at ringside to take his picture with them.

● THE show was the 250th to be aired on BoxNation, which has shown every one of Buglioni's professional fights to date.

● ROY JONES JNR misplaced his jacket and phone, alleged stolen, and promoter Vlad Hrunov put up a monetary reward for the return of the items.

► Pettitt to the ropes at times and leathering his ribcage with hooks.

After 10, it had been Pettitt landing the heavier blows, and Jenkinson could not seem to find the power needed to turn things around – that all changed in the 11th. A monstrous left hook floored Pettitt in the opening seconds and although he beat the count, his wobbly pins sent him reeling to the ropes. Jenkinson waded in until an enraged fan stormed to the ring apron and began shaking the ropes, forcing referee Marcus McDonnell to pause proceedings. It did not buy Pettitt enough time and Bobby steamrolled in once things got back underway, slamming in punishing blows to a defenceless Pettitt, forcing McDonnell's intervention at 2-38.

Ryan Walsh and **Samir Mouneimne** also produced a memorable clash for

Walsh kept the pressure up for the next four rounds, bloodying Mouneimne's nose in the seventh and bullying him to the ropes. Mouneimne's effective jab had disappeared until he woke up in the 10th and clawed his way back into the fight over the championship rounds. As the final bell rang, both men celebrated but the split decision went to Walsh, with scores of 116-112 and 117-111 (far too wide) awarded to him, and 114-113 given to Mouneimne. It could have gone either way and a rematch would be well received.

Finchley heavyweight **Dereck Chisora** [inset] turned in a poor performance

AS THE FINAL BELL RANG BOTH MEN CELEBRATED

a vacant strap, this time the British featherweight title was up for grabs.

Walsh, of Cromer, forced the action in the opener and caused Hull's Mouneimne to hold after landing a jarring right in the second. Once he had settled in, slick Samir began to catch Walsh with potent counters as he lunged in and soon took control. Just as Ryan looked to be out of ideas, he dropped Mouneimne with a short right in the fifth and the fight exploded into life once Samir beat referee Ian John-Lewis' count.



NIP AND TUCK:
Walsh [right]
targets the body
of Mouneimne



RARE ATTACK:
Kavanagh [left]
fields Mora's right

Jamie had no trouble over the six rounds, beating Reynaldo to the punch on the inside and at range. A violent flurry in the final round could not move Mora, and Kavanagh settled for a score of 60-54 on referee Bob Williams' card.

The clash of undefeated super-welterweights between Wembley's **Gary Corcoran** and Penrith's **Rick Skelton** looked like a corker on paper but ended up an ugly clash of styles. Southpaw Skelton hoped to elude the crude Corcoran's onslaughts but the pair kept pulling each other into clinches and referee Hinds warned them countless times.

There was clearly a bit of needle between the two as words were exchanged, but Corcoran looked in charge after seven with Skelton marked up and bleeding from a cut over his right eye.

Neither man stamped their authority, but Corcoran was a deserved winner and earned a 97-94 decision over 10 on Hinds' scorecard.

Unbeaten super-welterweight **Ahmet Patterson** continued his steady progression with a routine stoppage win over Georgia's **Giorgi Ungiadze**. A stiff right dropped the overmatched foreigner in the opening round but the Dulwich

man could not find the finish. Ungiadze went into survival mode from then on until a series of unanswered rights in the eighth of a scheduled 10 forced referee Williams to stop the fight at 2-52.

Rising prospect **Romeo Romaeo** saw off a spirited effort from Plymouth's **Chris Adaway** to eke out an eight-round decision win at super-lightweight. Romaeo's athletic prowess saw him

through this one, as his erratic work saw him countered by the more refined Adaway. He bullied Adaway to the ropes, pushing him when he could. Referee Hinds scored it 77-76 for Cardiff-based Romaeo.

Dagenham lightweight **Ediz Hussein** overcame a cut eye from an accidental clash of heads to outpoint

Leicester's **Alex Phillips** over six by a score of 57-56.

Chingford super-feather **Boy Jones Jnr** and Chelmsford super-middle **Billy Long** both picked up four-round decision wins, over Croatian **Antonio Horvatic** and Spain's **Christian Gomez** respectively. Referee Hinds awarded both men a score of 40-36.

THE VERDICT Buglioni goes above and beyond the call of duty, but comes up short.

TALKING POINT

CHUDINOV looks set to defend his WBA 'regular' belt against hard-hitting Vincent Feigenbutz next, provided the German triumphs over Giovanni De Carolis on October 17.



UNSIGHTLY MIX:
The styles of Corcoran [left]
and Skelton fail to gel

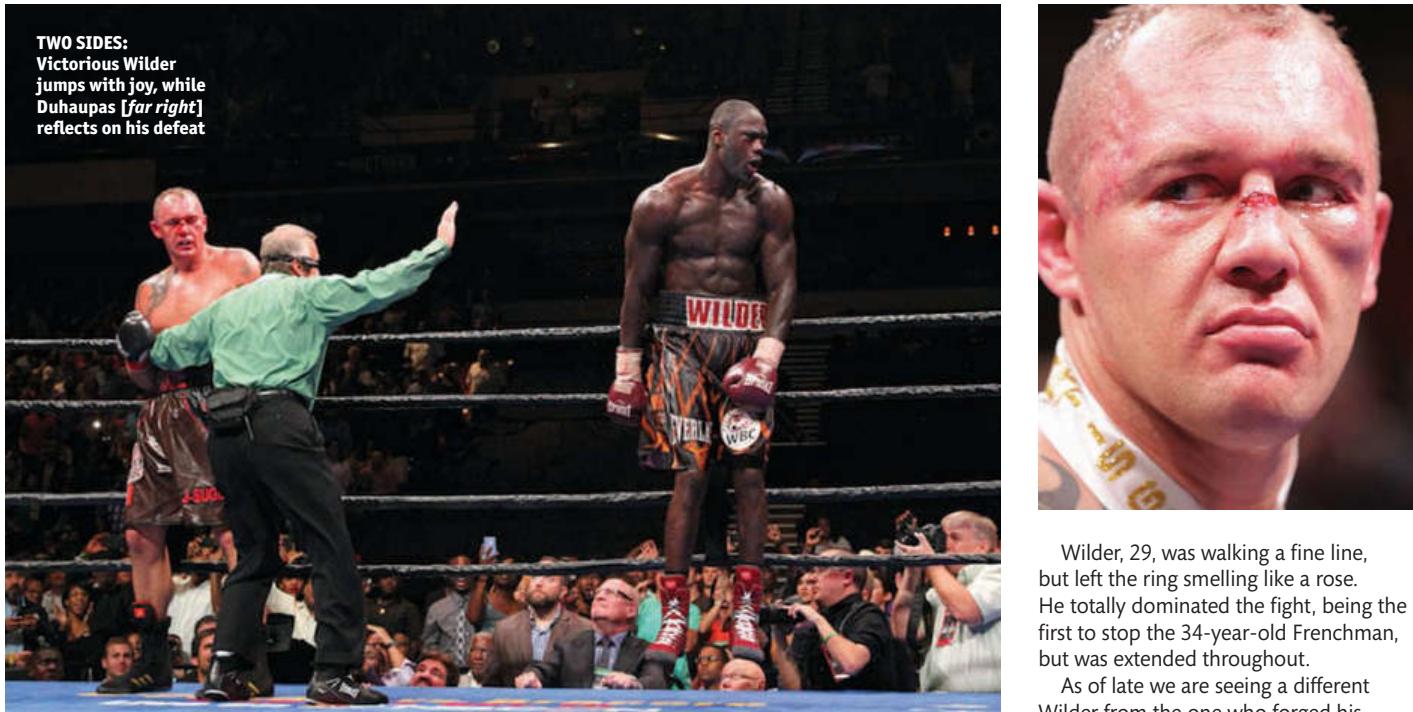
FULL RESULTS

Fedor Chudinov (167lbs), 14-0 (10), w pts 12 Frank Buglioni (167lbs), 17-2 (13); Bobby Jenkinson (120lbs), 9-1 (2), w rsf 11 Lewis Pettitt (120lbs), 17-2 (7); Ryan Walsh (125lbs), 19-1 (8), w pts 12 Samir Mouneimne (126lbs), 15-2 (4); Dereck Chisora (260lbs), 22-5 (14), w pts 10 Marcelo Luiz Nascimento (235lbs), 18-11 (16); Bradley Skeete (146lbs), 21-1 (10), w rsf 3 Mark Thompson (146lbs), 27-5 (15); Gary Corcoran (154lbs), 14-0 (6), w pts 10 Rick Skelton (153lbs), 13-1 (1); Jamie Kavanagh (137lbs), 19-1-1 (9), w pts 6 Reynaldo Mora (134lbs), 7-5-1 (4); Ahmet Patterson (155lbs), 16-0 (6) w rsf 8 Giorgi Ungiadze (150lbs), 31-25 (18); Romeo Romaeo (137lbs), 9-0 (4), w pts 8 Chris Adaway (137lbs), 4-7; Ediz Hussein (138lbs), 6-0-1, w pts 4 Alex Phillips (137lbs), 2-5; Boy Jones Jnr (132lbs), 4-0-1 (2), w pts 4 Antonio Horvatic (134lbs), 8-20 (5); Billy Long (169lbs), 2-0, w pts 4 Christian Gomez (171lbs), 1-8-1 (1).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Wilder finds himself in the odd position of being both a prospect and a champion, writes Jack Hirsch

Photos: LUCAS NOONAN/PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS



TWO SIDES:
Victorious Wilder
jumps with joy, while
Duhaupas [far right]
reflects on his defeat

BIRMINGHAM, AL

SEPTEMBER 26

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

If the sport of boxing were administered in the same manner as it had been a few decades ago, then **Deontay Wilder's** 11th-round stoppage of **Johann Duhaupas** would have met with rave reviews. Wilder would not have been a belt-holder, but one of the leading contenders behind leader Vladimir Klitschko. And if that were the case the expectations on the current WBC champion would be considerably less than they are today. Instead of Wilder undergoing criticism for picking such a massive underdog to defend his title against, Duhaupas would have been considered a reasonable test going in and Wilder's dominance in their fight would have been universally lauded afterward.

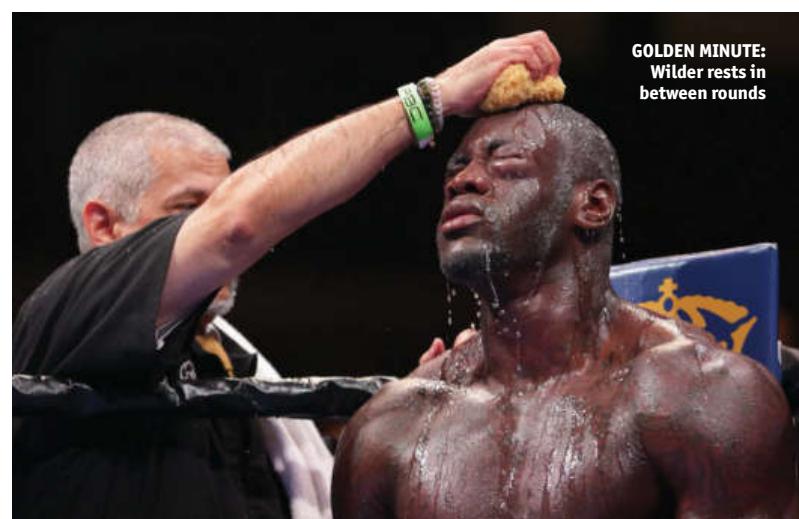
Back to reality. Wilder does hold a portion of the most coveted title in sports, while claiming to be the best

heavyweight in the world. Therefore criticism of his selection of unknown Duhaupas, from Abbeville, France, was wholly justified. Wilder spent a good part of the pre-fight promotion in damage control mode, acknowledging that he was in a no-win situation. If he were to dispatch Duhaupas quickly it would only serve to validate what the critics said. And if the unbeaten Wilder were to struggle too much, his stock would drop in the court of public opinion.

Wilder, 29, was walking a fine line, but left the ring smelling like a rose. He totally dominated the fight, being the first to stop the 34-year-old Frenchman, but was extended throughout.

As of late we are seeing a different Wilder from the one who forged his reputation on a string of quick and devastating knockouts. What we have learned in his last three fights is that he can box commendably and move on his feet well. And if the knockout does not come early, Wilder has the stamina to go the full 12 rounds if need be. Against Duhaupas, Wilder showed mental toughness, not getting discouraged by the swelling under his left eye that became pronounced by the third round.

What Duhaupas has in heart he lacks in speed. He plodded after Wilder all



GOLDEN MINUTE:
Wilder rests in
between rounds

GAME CHALLENGER:
Duhaupas swallows
a right from Wilder
[and below]



fight, rarely able to get off first. Gloves held high, the challenger caught a lot of punches on the mitts. Wilder gradually opened up Duhaupas' guard by going downstairs and banging his ribs with both hands. The visitor tried to counter with looping hooks. Now and then one would get through, but Wilder was largely unaffected by the blows.

Wilder just might have the best jab in the heavyweight division. It bloodied the bridge of the challenger's nose in the opening round and kept him at bay. "Keep the jab going," trainer Mark Breland implored at the end of the second round.

Wilder, from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, was boxing in front of a home crowd of 8,471 fans at the Legacy Arena (on a PBC card). There was electricity in the air every time he opened up. Whenever Wilder would periodically shake up Duhaupas, the crowd would rise to its feet hoping for an empathetic ending, but the challenger was resilient. Duhaupas' left eye was cut and his energy level was gradually diminishing as the fight wore on. There would be stretches where both were locked on the inside where neither was getting punching room.

In the 10th round Duhaupas was in serious trouble after getting hit with a quick barrage of hooks, but survived by grabbing onto Wilder who astonishingly did not know how to free himself from a clinch.

When a right uppercut followed by a barrage of blows stunned Duhaupas and

had him going backward in the 11th, referee Jack Reiss justifiably stopped it after 55 seconds of the round. "I didn't think the referee should have stopped the fight," complained Duhaupas, who was making his US debut having already boxed in eight other countries. "I was defending myself and moving. I'm okay and will continue my boxing career in Europe."

"It's tough fighting at home because you want to please and entertain the crowd," said Wilder. "Hopefully Klitschko and I can fight in the next year and we'll have an undisputed heavyweight champion, which will be me."

California heavyweight, 2012 US Olympian **Dominic Breazeale**, and New Orleans' **Fred Kassi** engaged in a nip and tuck 10-rounder that could have been scored either way. Breazeale was awarded a unanimous 10-round decision on the scorecards of judges David Hudson (97-93), Irwin Deutsch (98-92), and John Westeterp (100-90). Westeterp's score, which did not award Kassi a single round, was ludicrous.

The much-shorter Kassi, who is a southpaw, was able to come over the top and reach Breazeale with solid blows from time to time. Breazeale, who is still raw and in the developmental stage, went 10 rounds for the first time, but could have asserted himself a bit more. Jeff Dodson officiated.

Heavyweight **Charles Martin** impressed in stopping Mexico's **Vicente Sandez** after 35 seconds of the third round (set for 10). California southpaw Martin dropped his opponent for nine-counts in both the second and third. It was halted with Sandez on his feet, but unsteady. Flynn Gerald refereed.

THE VERDICT Champion Wilder impresses in a no-win situation against gutsy Duhaupas.

FULL RESULTS

Deontay Wilder (228 1/2lbs), 35-0 (34), w rsf 11 **Johann Duhaupas** (236lbs), 31-3 (19); **Dominic Breazeale** (258lbs), 16-0 (14), w pts 10 **Fred Kassi** (222 1/2lbs), 18-4-1 (10); **Charles Martin** (247lbs), 22-0-1 (20), w rsf 3 **Vicente Sandez** (249lbs), 13-5 (9); **Mario Barrios** (131 3/4lbs), 12-0 (7), w rsf 1 **Eduardo Rivera** (132lbs), 9-3-2 (3); **Andrzej Wawryk** (240 1/4lbs), 31-1 (16), w rsf 3 **Mike Sheppard** (226 1/4lbs), 24-19-1 (10); **Terrell Gausha** (154 1/2lbs), 16-0 (8), w pts 6 **Eliezer Gonzalez** (154 1/2lbs), 15-2 (10); **Bryant Perrella** (145 1/2lbs), 11-0 (10), w rsf 5 **Patrick Boozer** (147 1/2lbs), 11-4 (3); **Derrick Murray** (128 1/2lbs), 11-0 (5), w pts 6 **Micah Branch** (129 1/2lbs), 2-17-1; **Kenneth McNeil** (160lbs), w rsf 3, **Taronze Washington** (160lbs), 17-21 (9).



CLOSE ONE:
Breazeale
[left] lets fly
against Kassi

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS/BOBBY YIP



THE SECRET:
Estrada is superb but largely unknown

PLAY IT AGAIN, ROMAN

Estrada closes in on Gonzalez as he thrashes Marquez, writes Kenneth Bouhairie

PUERTO PENASCO, MEXICO

SEPTEMBER 26

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT
★★★★★ UNDERCARD

JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA is peaking at the right time as he pushes for a unification rematch against Roman Gonzalez.

The WBA Super and WBO flyweight champion flaunted his skills in front of a raucous crowd at the Centro Convenciones, dropping fellow Mexican and ex-WBA titlist Hernan Marquez seven times en route to a 10th-round KO.

Gonzalez has been declared the world's best fighter by several major outlets since the departure of Floyd Mayweather. Estrada is the only boxer in recent years to threaten his pristine 43-0 (37) record. The two warred at light-flyweight back in 2012, with the 22-year-old Estrada withstanding Gonzalez's relentless onslaught and dishing out the kind of

punishment that would've made a lesser man capitulate.

"El Chocolatito's" experience and activity were enough to retain his WBA light-flyweight title via unanimous decision that night. He's now one of HBO's poster boys, while Estrada continues to plug away on the fringes of fame. But talent this good can't be overlooked for long. Now 25, he's come into his own and showing little weakness in his game. His defence, while not Pernell Whitaker-esque, is solid given his workrate. And his offense is sublime.

Marquez had won only three of his last six but his pedigree and relentless southpaw style – not unlike that of one Manny Pacquiao – makes him still formidable. He showed plenty of heart here, aggressively pursuing Estrada as his body took a career-shortening pasting. Marquez enjoyed his finest moments in the third, burying his straight left into Estrada's mid-section and landing a right hook that caused the champion to stumble backward. Estrada, however, never lost his composure, even as ringsiders hollered as the pair engaged in toe-to-toe action to close out the round.

Estrada opened the fourth with a single-minded assault on Marquez's

ribcage. The body attack set Marquez up for a knee-buckling right with one minute remaining in the sixth. Estrada then stepped in with another right – this time to the solar plexus – that dropped Marquez to one knee. He was up at 'eight' and down again seconds later, courtesy of a barbarous combination to the body. Marquez struggled to his feet, barely surviving the round as Estrada unloaded in the closing seconds.

Estrada sought to close the show in the seventh, creating enough space to uncork a picture-perfect left to the liver. Marquez sank to his knees a third time, visibly gasping for air on the canvas. Another left to his sides dropped him again moments later, but the warrior refused to surrender. He was up at 'nine' and in Estrada's grill almost immediately, firing back to the delight of the crowd.

Estrada patiently stalked his foe in the eighth, allowing Marquez to further tire himself out by letting his hands go. He scored another knockdown in the ninth, although Marquez appeared to be more off-balance than anything.

That wasn't the case in the fateful 10th. The end began one minute in, when Estrada capped off a three-punch volley with a crunching left hook that deposited Marquez on the seat of his trunks. A spent Marquez miraculously picked himself up but a right hand reacquainted him with the canvas a seventh time, prompting referee Ramon Pena to step in and halt the action at 1-26.

Estrada will now wait on the outcome of the Gonzalez-Brian Viloria bout, scheduled as the co-feature on the October 17 Gennady Golovkin-David Lemieux card. A rematch sometime next year would not only settle the raging debate among hardcore fans, if it's anything like their first encounter then aficionados can also expect a Fight of the Year candidate.

Mexican lightweight **Miguel Berchelt** scored two knockdowns to notch a fifth-round stoppage against overmatched Nicaraguan **Josue Bendana**.

Bendana was down in the third, and saved only by the bell. He barely held on in the fourth, and Berchelt rained waves of combinations on him in the fifth, driving him to the canvas and compelling referee Porfirio Pinato to wave it off at 1-34.

THE VERDICT Estrada deserves another shot at Gonzalez, and we deserve to see it.

FULL RESULTS

Juan Francisco Estrada (112lbs), 33-2 (24), w ko 10 Hernan Marquez (112lbs), 39-6-1 (29);
Miguel Berchelt (133lbs), 27-1 (24), w rsf 5
Josue Bendana (132 1/2lbs), 9-6-4 (5).

NO TIME TO WASTE

Impressive Davies Jnr dumps Avakyan in less than two minutes



Andy Whittle

RINGSIDE

CHILWELL

SEPTEMBER 26

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

★★★★★ ATMOSPHERE

Photo: COLIN MESSOM



FUZZY FACE:
Davies Jnr [left]
hurts Avakyan early

B

OTH the scheduled eight-round bill-topper and the slated six-round chief-support on this Carl Greaves promotion at

Nottinghamshire's Chilwell Olympia Sports Centre were over without the timekeeper even having to ring the bell to signal the end of the opening session. Merseysider **Robbie Davies Jnr** and local lad **Jamie Williams** made short shrift of things.

A couple of months ago in Derby, I watched Georgia's **Mikheil Avakyan** in an awfully scrappy eight-rounder against Morden's Lenny Daws, but there was no time for wrestling here. Kirkby's Davies, on the attack right from the off, rocked the visitor with an early right before sending him over with a weighty left. Two heavy rights on the resumption sent Avakyan sprawling once more and referee Kevin Parker called it off at 1-57.

Flyweight Williams meanwhile needed only a little longer to dispose of two-fight Bulgarian novice **Georgi Georgiev**. Having crumpled in his own corner after finding himself on the receiving end of a combination culminating in a pair of rights to the head, Georgiev quickly reacquainted himself with the canvas after the marauding Williams sunk home an overhand right and a couple to Georgi's exposed flanks for good measure. This was the cue for referee Shaun Messer to call a halt with the bell still 12 seconds away.

There was an even quicker finish in the scheduled four-threes between toned and heavily tattooed Nottingham debutant **Corey Jackson** and Sheffield's **Dan Foster**, who had been stopped in

his only previous outing. Foster silenced the noisy locals by staggering Jackson, who until then had been the aggressor, with a huge right to the head before sending him over with the same shot. Corey was up quickly, too quickly, and betrayed by unsteady legs. Referee Messer halted things after 90 seconds.

Five further four-rounders made up the undercard, all won by the home boxers but by widely differing margins. The first of these, refereed by Mr Parker, saw Newark's **Moses Smith** register his second paid victory with a shut-out 40-36 triumph over Dunstable's **James Conroy**. Conroy, who stood between rounds, and who saw a couple of intended hooks fall short of the always-busier, jabbing Smith, finished with a nick on the top of his head.

Two other bouts overseen by referee Parker saw popular Stapleford lightweight **Nathan Kirk** and Lincoln middleweight **Daryl Baptist** succeed. Nathan, having endured a little early holding, was ultimately given a decent scrap by Sheffield's busy **Qasim Hussain** who, spoken to after a little clowning early in the last, duly turned in his best work of the evening. It was not quite sufficient though to earn him a share, the official scoring 39-38 for Kirk, whose better

initial work saw him home on the cards.

Baptist meanwhile claimed a 40-37 victory over southpaw Llanelli-based Pole **Robert Studzinski**, who after a fairly close opener, saw Daryl begin to stamp his authority on proceedings. There were times in the middle rounds when Daryl was guilty of neglecting his right hand, but he remedied that in the final stanza, opening with an immediate right before following up with a combination upstairs.

Mr Messer was the third man in the contests which saw Nottingham duo **Nathan McIntosh** and **Dean Gillen** maintain their 100 per cent records. McIntosh took a one-sided 40-35 win over Driffield's **Danny Little** in a sometimes-scrappy affair which saw Little, already warned for use of the shoulder, docked a point in the third for use of the elbow.

Gillen, a fireman from the Arnold area trained by ex-pro Andrew Lowe, was having just his second outing since joining the paid ranks. He came out on top, 39-37, against Lydney's **Lewis van Poetsch**, who had his nose bloodied midway through the opener.

THE VERDICT 'Don't blink' seemed the best option, with three bouts failing to last a round.

FULL RESULTS

Robbie Davies Jnr (143lbs 6oz), 10-0 (7), w rsf 1 **Mikheil Avakyan** (143lbs 6oz), 31-22-4 (16); **Jamie Williams** (115lbs), 6-1 (3), w rsf 1 **Georgi Georgiev** (115lbs), 1-2; **Dan Foster** (179lbs 1oz), 1-1 (1), w rsf 1 **Corey Jackson** (177 1/4lbs), 0-1; **Daryl Baptist** (163lbs 3oz), 5-1 (1), w pts 4 **Robert Studzinski** (162lbs 2oz), 3-23 (2); **Nathan McIntosh** (150 1/2lbs), 8-0, w pts 4 **Danny Little** (153lbs), 3-11-2; **Dean Gillen** (162 1/4lbs), 2-0, w pts 4 **Lewis van Poetsch** (164lbs 2oz), 4-26; **Nathan Kirk** (134lbs 6oz), 6-1 (1), w pts 4 **Qasim Hussain** (138 3/4lbs), 2-38-2; **Moses Smith** (170lbs 1oz), 2-1, w pts 4 **James Conroy** (171lbs 3oz), 1-7.

PREVIEWS

Previewing the best
upcoming fights
around the world

★★★★★ OUTSTANDING ★★★★ GOOD ★★★ FAIR ★★ DISAPPOINTING ★ RUBBISH

The star ratings indicate how well the writer believes the fighters match up, the fight(s)' contextual significance, and how good the fight(s) will be

NOTHING TO LOSE

McKenzie's long walk along boxing's mysterious roads eventually leads to Ramirez, writes Matt Christie

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT



DOPTED Englishman **Ovill McKenzie** is not expected to return from a trip to Buenos Aires to challenge Argentina's new IBF cruiserweight champion **Victor Emilio Ramirez** with the title. Let's be honest, even if McKenzie set up a boxing ring in his back garden and asked his promoter Frank Warren to be the referee, he still wouldn't be expected to win. But such lack of faith will only spur the Jamaican-born slugger when he steps into the Villa La Ñata Sporting Club for Saturday's (October 2) BoxNation-tevised 12-rounder; hastily arranged when the injured Yoan Pablo Hernandez was forced to withdraw and forfeit his belt, leaving Interim titlist Ramirez promoted to full champion and without an opponent.

"I couldn't believe it when I was told that I had a world title fight," said McKenzie. "I've had short-notice fights all my life so this is no different for me. It makes no difference that it's in Argentina, I will fight anywhere in the world and I'm fit and ready."

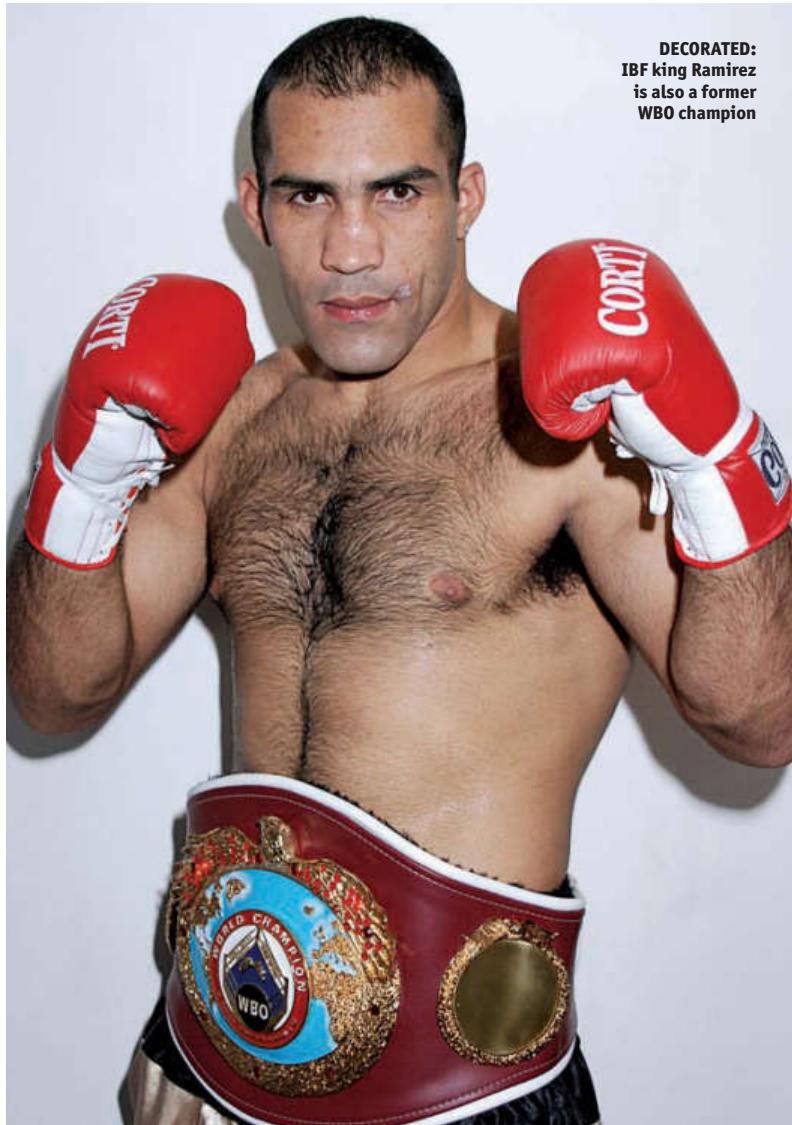
There should be no doubt that McKenzie, despite only two-and-a-half weeks to devote to this chance of a lifetime, will be in pristine physical condition. The acutely muscled veteran began boxing as an 18-year-old in Jamaica when he stumbled across some old gloves in the street (he gave one lad such a pasting in the public sparring that ensued that the poor fellow's irate mother took a pair of scissors to the gloves). What followed makes this fairy tale hard to resist, even if the ending looks destined to fall short of the Hollywood standard.

"I've been in this sport a long time and I've seen the ups and downs," McKenzie understated. Banned by the Jamaican national amateur team because he publicly voiced his displeasure about the way that the boxers were being treated, Ovill ended

'I'VE HAD SHORT- NOTICE FIGHTS ALL MY LIFE SO THIS IS NO DIFFERENT'

up on British shores in 2003 after an application to enter the US was denied. He won his first two professional contests but was soon fed to comparative lions like 17-0 Denis Inkin (whom he only lost to by a point in 2004), future WBA 175lb king Stipe Drews, and Olympian Courtney

Fry. After two years in the paid ranks his record read 5-6 (1). He managed to avenge the loss to



Fry, before gaining revenge over another early conqueror, Peter Haymer, to claim the Commonwealth strap inside two at the end of 2006. Buoyed a little too much by a sense of deliverance, McKenzie - who allowed the title to go to his head - walked straight into a one-round mauling at the hands of Dean Francis the following year. Two further setbacks in six and eight-rounders left his prospects in ruins.

The 2009 cruiserweight *Prizefighter* tournament would provide salvation of sorts. Even since that memorable triumph though, McKenzie has lost three fights;



Matthysse-Postol

Vacant WBC 140lb belt up for grabs

PAGE 26



Broner-Allakhverdiev

Adrien aims to reign at a fourth weight

PAGE 28

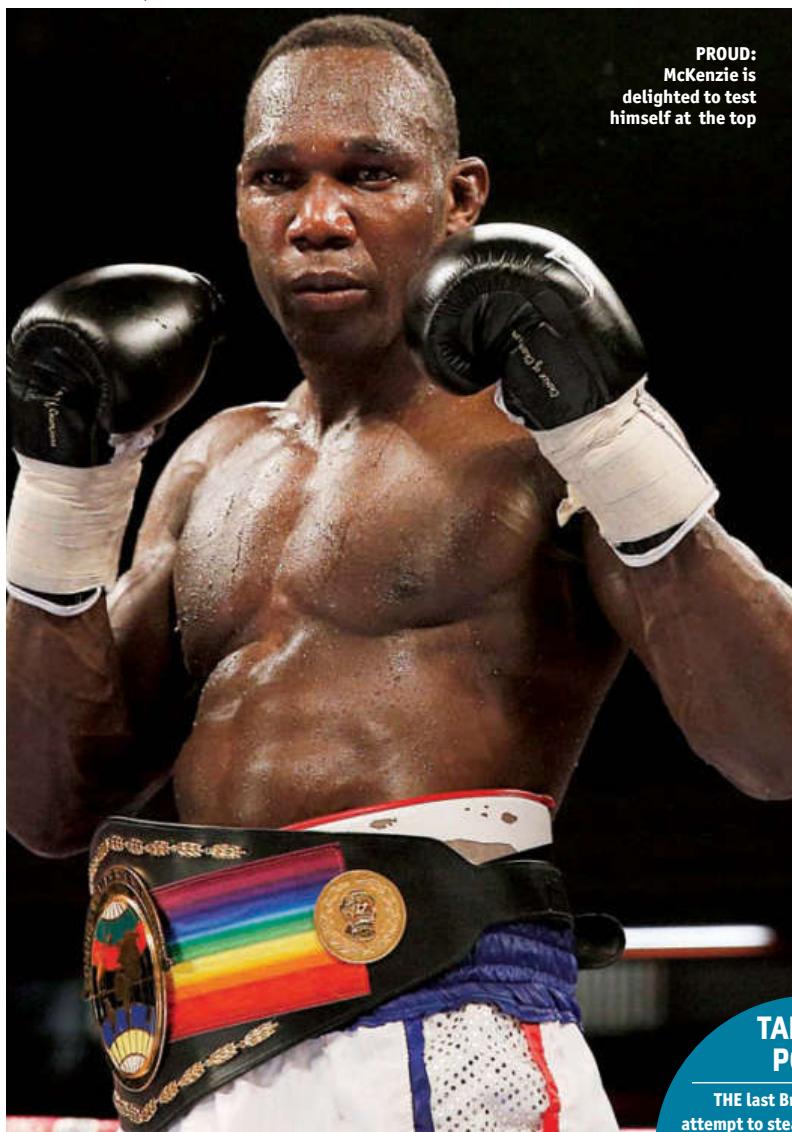


Langford-Rios

Tommy meets a durable Argentine

PAGE 29

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/JASON CAIRNDUFF



PROUD:
McKenzie is
delighted to test
himself at the top

twice to Tony Bellew (one a topsy-turvy eight-round thriller, the other a one-sided decision reverse) and a barnburning rematch in 11 to Enzo Maccarinelli (after controversially stopping the Welsh veteran in their opener). And now, on the crest of a four-victory wave, the Daniel Bowers-trained McKenzie finds himself challenging for one of the most respected belts in boxing.

"I've been a pro for 15 years and I've never had it easy, some decisions have gone against me when I believe I've won, others I've lost fair and square, I've not moaned about it and just kept training,

fighting and plugging away with the belief that one day I would get a world title shot, well brutha, that day is here," McKenzie said with the defining lap of his rollercoaster career approaching.

McKenzie will be dangerous for as long as the contest lasts, particularly in the early going. His right hand has dropped the world-class Bellew twice, and recently accounted for top tier domestic cruisers in Tony Conquest (for the Commonwealth cruiserweight title),

TALKING POINT

THE last British fighter to attempt to steal a world title from an Argentine on their ground was Martin Murray. He was a revelation against Sergio Martinez, but some dodgy officiating decisions cost him dear.

At the same hostile venue in April, Britain's Ola Afolabi – far slicker than McKenzie – had some success against a tiring Ramirez in April before losing a unanimous decision (and it should be noted, was deducted two points in the 11th when the going started to get tough for the

champion). In short, the challenger will need to reveal yet another side of himself to win, but even for McKenzie, such reinvention looks like mission impossible.

THE VERDICT McKenzie will always be able to say he fought for a world title but it's unlikely he'll say he won one.

TALE OF THE TAPE

VICTOR E RAMIREZ	OVILL MCKENZIE
n/a	@OvillThe1
Mar 30, 1984/31	DOB/AGE Nov 26, 1979/35
Buenos Aires	HOMETOWN London
Argentine	NATIONALITY English-Jamaican
5ft 7ins	HEIGHT 6ft
69ins	REACH 83ins
30-2 (22)	RECORD 25-12 (13)
Orthodox	STANCE Orthodox
Apr 8, 2006/22	DEBUT/AGE Mar 6, 2003/23
68	KO PERCENTAGE 35
1/6	BEST ODDS 8/1



EXPERT VIEW

ENZO MACCARINELLI
SPLIT TWO BOUTS WITH MCKENZIE

YOU'VE got to give McKenzie a chance. Ramirez is a good fighter but he's not at the very top. Okay, he has the win over Ola Afolabi but I think that was a faded Afolabi.

The only thing I question about McKenzie is how much he's trained.

Two-and-a-half weeks is not much time to prepare and while Ramirez always knew he was having a fight on this date, McKenzie did not. But Ovill is a tough man, he's strong, and not many can make him go backwards.

Don't write McKenzie off, but Ramirez should have enough to win.

SHOT OF THE WEEK



THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

ALWAYS the entertainer, Tyson Fury adorns a Batman costume at the press conference for his now-postponed clash with Wladimir Klitschko. Tyson's cousin, Hughie Fury – dressed as the Joker – is less enthusiastic



RISE OF 'THE MACHINE'

Paul Wheeler
ponders whether Postol can block Matthysse's surge towards a world title

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

MATCH-UP:

Lucas Matthysse-Viktor Postol
DATE: Saturday October 3
VENUE: StubHub Center, Carson, California
PROMOTER: Golden Boy Promotions
TELEVISION: BoxNation (UK) & HBO (US)

BACKGROUND:

THE vacant WBC super-lightweight title will be awarded to the winner of the intriguing 12-round clash between Argentine **Lucas Matthysse**, 37-3 (34) 1NC, and Ukrainian **Viktor Postol**, 27-0 (11). The belt was relinquished by Danny Garcia in June following his move up to the welterweight division. With Postol ranked at No. 1 in the WBC's 140lb ratings, and Matthysse at No. 2, the governing body selected these two fighters to contest the unoccupied strap.

Golden Boy handle Matthysse, while fellow American promotional powerhouse, Top Rank, co-promote Postol along with Elite Boxing.

STRENGTHS:

One of the most devastating punchers in the sport today, fan-favourite Matthysse systematically stalks his rivals before unleashing crunching two-fisted combinations. The aggressive and accurate 33-year-old blitzes the body with startling venom, especially with his vicious left hook. A 2000 Argentine national champion and 2001 World Championships participant, "The Machine's" proficient boxing technique is often overlooked by observers due to the punishing power he packs into his mitts. The ex-Interim WBC super-light belt-holder sets up attacks effectively with his jab, and employs intelligent lateral movement. His last eight outings have all been in the USA.

Boxing out of a classic straight-up Eastern European stance, Postol rams out a stiff jab and likes to keep his adversaries at a distance – the rangy 31-year-old

'EVERYONE SHOULD EXPECT A GREAT FIGHT'

boasts a four-and-a-half-inch height advantage over the 5ft 6 1/2in Matthysse. A veteran of approximately 250 amateur contests, the Kiev native is a refined technician who possesses good stamina, astute head movement, tidy footwork, decent handspeed, and a high punch output. Furthermore, Viktor's training base at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles, where he works under Hall of Fame coach Freddie Roach, is located just 15 miles from this weekend's battleground.

WEAKNESSES:

Matthysse's fists are not the quickest, and although he has never been beaten inside-schedule, the Buenos Aires resident has been knocked down in two of his last four fights. Then-unified world 140lb king Garcia dropped and unanimously outscored him in September 2013, while former WBC lightweight title challenger John Molina

Photo: GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS



BOMBS AWAY:
Matthysse [left] and Postol look set to serve up a cracker



SAFE HANDS:
Postol [right] fires
a left into the mitts
of esteemed trainer
Freddie Roach

TALE OF THE TAPE

LUCAS MATTHYSSE	VIKTOR POSTOL
@LucasMatthysse	@IcemanPostol
Sep 27, 1982/33	DOB/AGE Jan 16, 1984/31
Buenos Aires	HOMETOWN Kiev
Argentine	NATIONALITY Ukrainian
5ft 6 1/2ins	HEIGHT 5ft 11ins
37-3 (34) INC	RECORD 27-0 (11)
Orthodox	STANCE Orthodox
Jun 4, 2004/21	DEBUT/AGE Dec 1, 2007/23
83	KO PERCENTAGE 41
3/1	12-ROUNDERS COMPLETED/WON 5/5
1	WORLD TITLE FIGHTS 0
10	FIRST-ROUND WINS 2
Luis Barrera	TRAINER Freddie Roach

decked him twice seven months later, but was floored on two occasions himself and knocked out in 11. The Molina encounter – *Boxing News'* 2014 International Fight of the Year – was a particularly gruelling war, as was Lucas' savage majority verdict victory over ex-WBO super-lightweight ruler Ruslan Provodnikov in April.

While Matthysse has mixed extensively in world class, the same cannot be said for Postol – the South American is undoubtedly Viktor's toughest opponent so far. Only three of Postol's previous bouts have been staged in America, with the majority of his matches taking place in Ukraine. "The Iceman" is not known as a huge hitter, and he can be caught by shots when he is opening up himself.

PAST FORM:

In between the Provodnikov and Molina match-ups, Matthysse dispatched previously unbeaten Roberto Ortiz in

two sessions. Other notable scalps on his record include former global titlists Vivian Harris (rsf 4), DeMarcus Corley (rsf 8), Humberto Soto (rtd 5) and Lamont Peterson (rsf 3). The Garcia setback aside, Lucas' losses have been contentious – two-weight world champs Zab Judah and Devon Alexander were both dropped by the Luis Barrera-trained banger, yet still garnered split decisions.

Postol maintained his perfect ledger with a lacklustre unanimous points triumph over outclassed Jake Giuriceo last time out in April. His most impressive success came via stunning 11th-round KO in May last year against strong Selcuk Aydin. Points wins against fringe contenders Corley and Henry Lundy also adorn his résumé.

WHAT THEY SAY:

Matthysse: "I'm delighted to be fighting for a world title. I'm excited to be back at the StubHub Center in Carson [where the Molina clash was held]. Everyone should expect a great fight."

Postol: "California has become a second home for me since I've been training in Los Angeles, so it feels great to fight in Carson. I never had any doubt that this would happen for me – I know I can become a world champion."

OUTCOME:

Postol will frustrate Matthysse at times by keeping the fight at distance with his long jab, and utilising clever movement. However, Lucas will be undeterred, and

will continuously search for opportunities to launch his destructive bombs – he can land the harder, more eye-catching strikes. It could be relatively close on the scorecards, but a knockdown or two will sway it in Matthysse's favour on points.

UNDERCARD:

In the 10-round super-lightweight chief-support, undefeated San Diego-based Mexican **Antonio Orozco**, 22-0 (15), meets Tijuana's hugely experienced ex-WBC super-feather and lightweight boss **Humberto Soto**, 65-8-2 (35) INC.

A seasoned warrior who is capable of throwing a vast volume of leather even at the advanced age of 35, Soto started his career at bantamweight. Orozco, in contrast, is a career-140-pounder. Determined and assertive, the 27-year-old is an accomplished body-puncher who enjoyed a respectable amateur career.

Soto unanimously

outpointed the aforementioned Molina just over a year ago, and is currently on a seven-fight winning streak at a solid level. The veteran certainly has a chance in this contest, but you have to favour his fresher foe. Orozco overcame a tough test against Emanuel Taylor via unanimous verdict in May, and he can take this one on points too.

THE VERDICT A fascinating fight between two top-level super-lightweights – worthy of world title billing.

EXPERT VIEWS

ASHLEY THEOPHANE SUPER-LIGHT CONTENDER

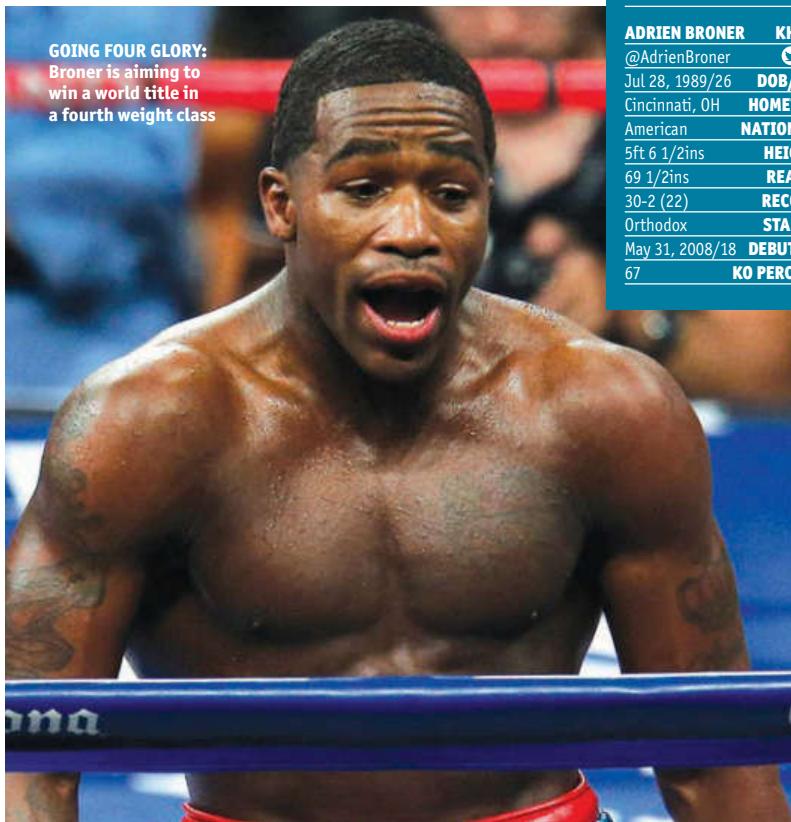
MATTHYSSE and Postol are both worthy fighters to be contesting the WBC super-lightweight title. Lucas has fought the very best in the division. He's always held his own against everyone he's faced. Viktor looks very good, but he's yet to be pushed, so it's unknown how good he really is. He's training with Freddie Roach, which is a plus for him, but your coach can only do so much for you. I'm leaning towards Matthysse for a hard-earned points decision.

JAKE GIURICEO OUTPOINTED BY POSTOL

THIS will be a great fight. I've never had the opportunity to fight Matthysse, but I've seen him in action, and I know he's a great fighter. With that said, we all know that styles make fights. In my fight with Postol, I learned that he's a very good boxer – the way he gets in and out, and the way he puts his combinations together. If he fights his fight, using his height, reach and boxing skills against Matthysse, who's more of a banger, I really think Postol will be the winner.

'I NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT THIS FIGHT WOULD HAPPEN'

Photos: ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS



GOING FOUR GLORY:
Broner is aiming to
win a world title in
a fourth weight class

TALE OF THE TAPE

ADRIEN BRONER	KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV
@AdrienBroner	@KHABIBHAWK82
Jul 28, 1989/26	DOB/AGE Dec 8, 1982/32
Cincinnati, OH	HOMETOWN Derbent
American	NATIONALITY Russian
5ft 6 1/2ins	HEIGHT 5ft 8ins
69 1/2ins	REACH 68ins
30-2 (22)	RECORD 32-2 (20)
Orthodox	STANCE Southpaw
May 31, 2008/18	DEBUT/AGE Mar 10, 2007/24
67	KO PERCENTAGE 45

twice since November 2012, when he won the vacant title against then-unbeaten Joan Guzman on a technical decision. His first defence came eight months later against tricky former champion Souleymane M'baya, whom he stopped in the 11th round before relinquishing his title to Vargas last year.

Allakhverdiev's loss to Vargas – the only reverse on his professional CV – was widely disputed given the competitive nature of the contest.

The Derbent southpaw was an accomplished amateur, winning over 200 bouts, and if it were not for his inactivity, he would be in with a serious chance of handing Broner his third loss. The 32-year-old does his best work on the front foot, keeping up a high work-rate to constantly keep his opponents under pressure. However, he is not nearly as aggressive as Maidana and Porter are, while looking tentative when backed up.

A gifted counter-puncher, Broner likes to break his foes down with pot shots and also has an authoritative jab when he uses it. His clumsy footwork lets him down at times and he will need to fight at a higher pace than he has in the past in order to control the fight. The brash 26-year-old should have enough to produce the better work and take this one on points.

In the co-feature, undefeated Puerto Rican **Jose Pedraza** defends his IBF super-feather title against ageing Bahamas-born Floridian **Edner Cherry**.

Pedraza outpointed Andrei Klimov in June to pick up the vacant strap, while Cherry has not lost since dropping a decision to Timothy Bradley in 2008, though has fought limited opposition since. Pedraza on points is the pick for this one. Warriors Boxing promote and Showtime televise in the US.

THE VERDICT Broner can become a four-weight world champion but to little fanfare.



EXPERT VIEW

GAVIN REES
STOPPED BY
BRONER IN 2013

BRONER should never have gone to welterweight, he doesn't have the power. At lightweight, he had unbelievable power and speed, he was untouchable at that weight and still would be now. It remains to be seen how well he'll do at super-lightweight, but I imagine he'll have power and will do well. He needs to switch on more in fights though. If he ups his workrate and stops living in Floyd Mayweather's shadow, he should win.

MORE BELTS,
MORE PROBLEMS

Broner's chance at another world title leaves a bitter taste, writes George Gigney

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★★ UNDERCARD

BOXING has long been criticised for having too many 'world' titles up for grabs, and **Adrien Broner's** clash with **Khabib Allakhverdiev** [inset] for the vacant WBA super-lightweight strap on Saturday (October 3) will only add fuel to the naysayers' fire. Simply put, neither man deserves the opportunity – both are coming off of decision losses, Broner's at the hands of Shawn Porter in June and Khabib's to Jessie Vargas in April 2014.

The title became vacant after its previous owner, Danny Garcia, moved up to 147lbs. Top Rank, who promote the WBA's 140lb Interim champion, Jose Benavidez, originally protested the Broner-Allakhverdiev fight as they believed their charge would be elevated to full champion, or at least given the chance to fight for the vacant bauble.

Cincinnati's Broner, who will be fighting in his hometown at the

U.S. Bank Arena, will also be vying to become a four-weight world champion, having previously held titles at super-featherweight, lightweight and welterweight.

Impressive wins over Daniel Ponce De Leon, Gavin Rees and Antonio DeMarco catapulted Broner into the upper echelons of the sport, and some hailed him as the heir to Floyd Mayweather's throne. Undesirable antics in and out of the ring soon turned him into the court jester. A 2013 defence of his welterweight crown against Marcos Maidana changed the trajectory of Broner's career when the Argentine dropped him twice en route to a clear points victory. "The Problem" has not looked the same since.

Decision wins over the competent, but limited, Carlos Molina, Emanuel Taylor and John Molina (all at 140lbs) began to rebuild Broner's image, but his cautious performances were a far cry from earlier explosive wins.

Despite dropping Porter in the final round, Broner was bullied from the outset in June and unable to hold his ferocious opponent off, losing his second fight in two years.

A former holder of the WBA belt, Russia's Allakhverdiev has only fought

BREAKING THROUGH

Langford looks to make his name in a burgeoning middleweight division, writes George Gigney

★★★★★ MAIN EVENT

★★★★☆ UNDERCARD

TOMMY LANGFORD looks to continue his rapid rise up the middleweight rankings this Saturday (October 3) as he defends his WBO Inter-Continental title against Argentina's **Cristian Rios**. The pair will meet over 10 rounds at the Civil Hall in Wolverhampton, with Queensberry Promotions and PJ Promotions coordinating, and BoxNation televising in the UK.

The unbeaten Birmingham fighter picked up the vacant strap in his last outing two months ago, when he blitzed Julio Cesar Avalos inside four rounds in Dublin. That victory moved him into the WBO's top 10 and a win over Rios would feasibly help move him closer to a world title shot. The WBO belt is currently held by Andy Lee, who looks set to defend against Billy Joe Saunders next, though a fight between the pair has twice been postponed.

Langford's recent progression is testament to both his skill and his promoter, Frank Warren, whom he signed with early last year. Prior to joining with Warren, Tommy had only picked up one stoppage in eight wins, having been matched with a crop of durable journeymen. He has come on since, stopping three of his last five victims, suggesting that the 26-year-old raises his game as the level of opposition gets better.

Wins over the likes of Gary Boulden, Nicky Jenman and Wayne Reed were expected, but Langford's performance against Avalos - a tricky opponent - revealed a venomous side to his work. From the outset, Langford walked down his significantly smaller foe, bludgeoning

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/PETER CZIBORRA



POWER SURGE:
Langford [right]
stops Reed in five
rounds in February

him with left hooks and straight right hands until Avalos inevitably wilted.

Rios' six losses are a little deceiving, given that five of them came in his first 12 outings while he was still green. His fortunes changed in 2010 when he picked up several consecutive wins and he has only lost one since - a 10-round decision to Billy Facundo Godoy in 2012. That came after a notable draw with Jorge Sebastian Heiland, who would go on to knock out two-time world title challenger Matthew Macklin.

The 32-year-old has never been stopped, though he was dropped in his last contest in June, a 10-round draw with the limited Gaston Alejandro Vega. This bout will also be his first outside of South America. The southpaw is a decent counter-puncher and his left hand is particularly dangerous once he has found his range.

Langford's stellar amateur career helped him develop a refined technique and when he's allowed to dictate the pace, he shines.

Rios likes to move to the ropes and isn't busy enough to trouble Tommy, who should be able to back the visitor up and win on points.

Dudley super-welterweight

Ryan Aston will attempt to work his way into domestic title contention when he faces Aylesbury's **Nathan Graham** over 10 in an English title eliminator. Aston was outpointed by Jason Welborn in his first step up in class earlier this

year, and bounced back with an easy win over Kevin McCauley in July.

A former Southern Area titlist, Graham has previously been stopped by Nav Mansouri, who currently holds the English strap.

Southpaw Aston has been sparring Andy Lee in preparation for this one and should clinch a well-earned decision.

Former IBF bantamweight champion **Paul Butler** also features on the card against an as-yet-unnamed opponent. The Ellesmere Port man suffered his first defeat in March when Zolani Tete halted him in eight for the IBF super-fly crown.

Midlands Area super-middle titlist **Andrew Robinson** boxes on the card, as do prospects **Josh Leather**, **Leon Woodstock** and **Macaulay McGowan**.



EXPERT VIEW

DAN BLACKWELL
OUTPOINTED BY
LANGFORD
LAST YEAR

LANGFORD is a very good boxer, but he's not a massive puncher. He's picked up a few stoppages recently which have come from an accumulation of punches, rather than one shot. He likes to have things his own way, he struggles a bit when someone comes at him and forces the pace. He should beat Rios, but I don't think he'll stop him.

THE VERDICT Langford can expand his fan base and push on toward major title contention.

TALE OF THE TAPE

TOMMY LANGFORD	CRISTIAN RIOS
@Tommy_Langford1	n/a
Jul 12, 1989/26	DOB/AGE May 5, 1983/32
Birmingham	HOMETOWN Buenos Aires
English	NATIONALITY Argentine
13-0 (4)	RECORD 20-6-3 (6)
Orthodox	STANCE Southpaw
Sep 8, 2012/23	DEBUT/AGE Mar 1, 2008/24
31	KO PERCENTAGE 21
1	FIGHTS OUTSIDE HOME NATION 1

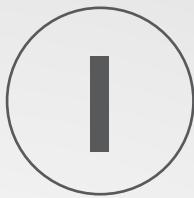
THE FINAL CHAPTER

On the 40th anniversary of the Thrilla in Manila, **Declan Warrington** tells the story of the last savage war between bitter rivals Ali and Frazier

Photo: GETTY IMAGES



OLD ENEMIES:
Ali [right] and Frazier
go to war for the third
and final time



F The Fight of the Century came at the collective peak of the illustrious careers of Joe Frazier

and Muhammad Ali, the Thrilla in Manila was when they finally left the last of themselves in the ring.

The greatest rivalry in boxing history – the perfect storm of a clash of fighting styles, personalities and irrepressible courage, displayed by two of the highest calibre heavyweights the world will ever see – came to a suitably seminal conclusion on October 1, 1975, in the stifling late-morning heat at Quezon City's Araneta Coliseum, in Metro Manila, the national capital region of the Philippines.

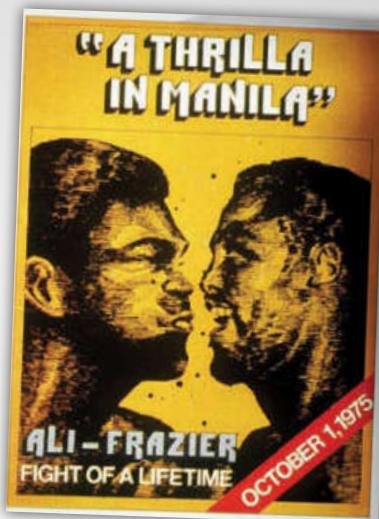
"Smokin'" Joe Frazier was thought of as finished, and perhaps for any other fighter than Ali he was, his air of invincibility having been harrowingly shattered in two one-sided rounds by the destructive George Foreman almost three years earlier on the night he was last the world heavyweight champion.

Typically Ali's reputation remained at its highest; he had staggeringly stopped Foreman in eight only 12 months previously, and in the golden era of the heavyweight division had since won a further three fights.

It was ultimately expected that his latest victory would prove routine, but, rousing himself for a fittingly-brutal final stand, the proud and brooding Frazier fought with such drive, menace and resistance that, as their callous confrontation concluded at the end of the 14th round, Ali collapsed through exhaustion, in his rawest moments describing his condition "like death. Closest thing to dyin' I know".

Frazier left the ring robbed of his vision but he had also left a permanent mark on his rival, whose features were similarly swollen. In time, their appearances would recover, but neither ever regained what they had beaten from each other, their bad intentions inspiring costly, unrepeatable exertions, and ensuring that finally, while Frazier would carry an intense bitterness towards his great rival to his grave, a significant, inevitable respect would forever exist between them.

"He shook me in Manila," said Frazier – who died aged 67 in November 2011 after a brief battle with liver cancer – of their third and final fight which took place 40 years ago. "We were gladiators. I didn't ask no favours of him and he didn't ask none of me. I don't like him but I gotta say, in the ring, he was a man. In Manila, I hit him with punches, they'd have knocked



a building down. And he took 'em and he came back, and I gotta respect that part of the man."

"It changes you," Ali reflected. "It makes you go a little insane. I was thinkin' that at the end. 'Why am I doin' this? What am I doin' in here against this beast of a man?' I always bring out the best in the men I fight, but Joe Frazier brings out the best in me. That's one helluva man. If God ever calls me to a holy war, I want Joe Frazier fighting beside me."

The feeling between them in the fight's build-up had, of course, been significantly different.

The fight itself, officially for Ali's WBC and WBA titles but in reality

for something of arguably greater importance – the decisive episode in a life-changing trilogy – had got its name from the champion's latest distasteful taunts which had begun years earlier with labelling Frazier an "uncle Tom" when Ali insisted: "It will be a killa, and a chilla, and a thrilla, when I get the gorilla, in Manila."

Under President Ferdinand Marcos, who was said to have stolen £4.62 billion from his country and oversaw 3,257 extra-judicial killings, the Philippines in 1975 was a dictatorship under Martial law (the imposition of a military government and therefore the suspension of ordinary law). Without the right credentials, both locals and visitors faced arrest if found on the streets beyond midnight, and tales persist of that very fate befalling some of the American press there reporting on the great attraction, Ali.

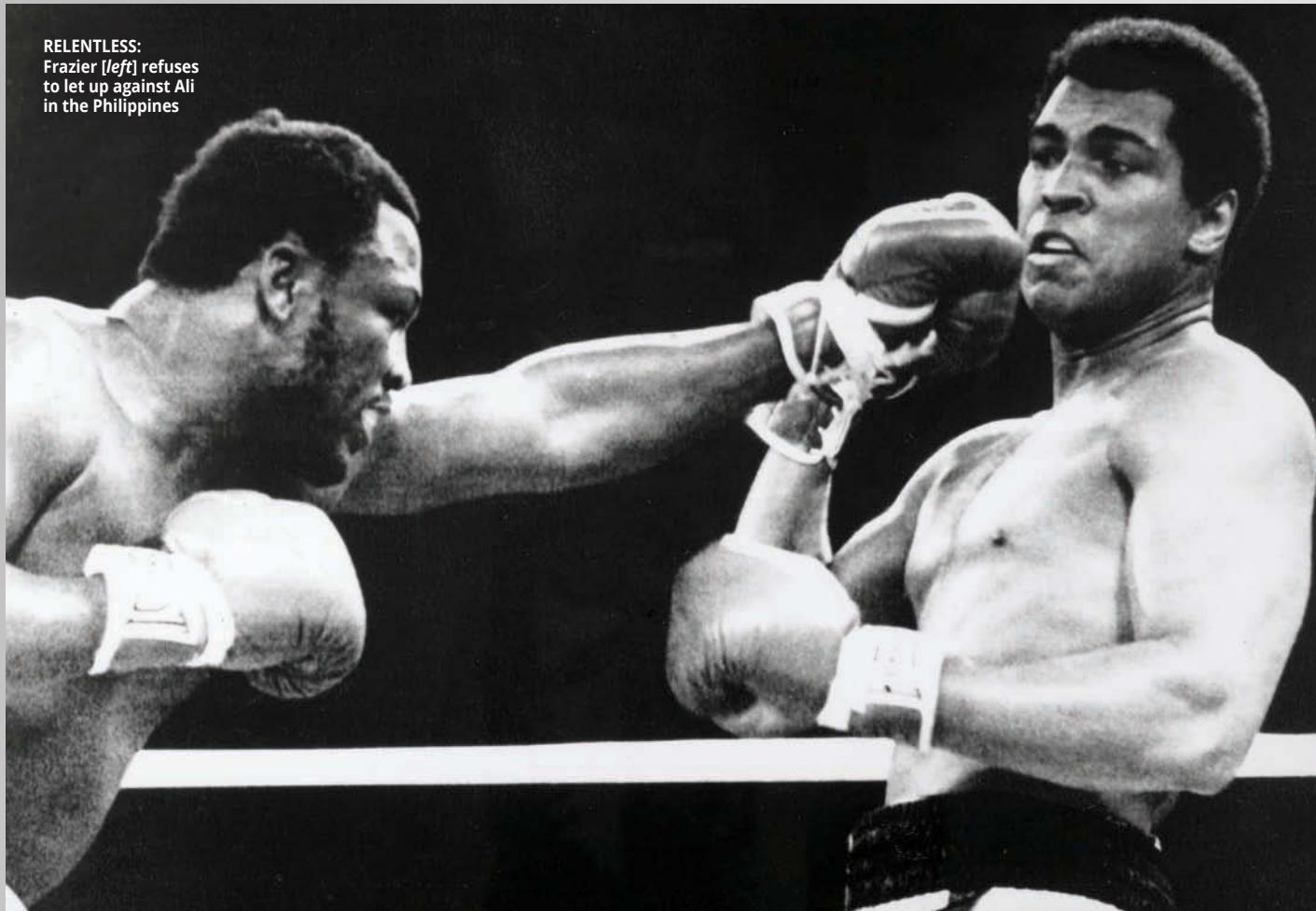
Marcos – whose wife Imelda, a former beauty queen, was known to own in excess of 3,000 pairs of shoes – through a desire to promote his ruling and distract from the social unrest and poverty of his people, paid to bring the fight to Manila with the champion Ali earning a total of \$6 million (£3.9m) and the challenger, Frazier, half that amount.

It was at Manila's presidential palace where both fighters were invited to meet both the president and his wife, and where one of the noteworthy narratives in the build-up to fight night developed. Ali's mistress, Veronica Porche, who first began appearing in public alongside Ali three months earlier when she was described as a babysitter, accompanied the champion while his wife, Belinda, remained in the US. Marcos, mistaking Porche for Ali's wife, proved the catalyst for Ali later introducing her as exactly that, the affair becoming public knowledge, and Belinda Ali flying to Manila to confront her husband.

The Sun's Colin Hart, who was ringside in Manila, told *Boxing News*. "[Ali's physician] Ferdie Pacheco had tipped off a couple of us, 'Be at Ali's hotel when she arrives, 'cause the s*** is liable to hit the fan'. ▶

ALI VS
★ FRAZIER III ★
SPECIAL FEATURE
BOXING

**IF GOD EVER CALLS ME TO A HOLY WAR,
I WANT JOE FRAZIER FIGHTING BESIDE ME**



► Several of us were in the lobby, waiting for Belinda to arrive. She came into the lobby, didn't look left, nor right, followed by about eight suitcases stacked on a trolley. She went into the elevator where Ali was in the penthouse suite.

"Several hours later, the elevator doors opened, and Belinda came out exactly as she went in, and flew straight back to America. That was the end of the marriage. We were told there was literally a fight: she attacked him physically, pulled down the drapes, scratched his face... the Belinda-Ali pre-fight fight."

Porché's wasn't the only female company Ali was known to have kept while in Manila as his idiosyncratic ways again repeatedly surfaced. Ignoring Pacheco's advice not to have contact with the children of Quezon City, where there had been an outbreak of the incredibly-contagious conjunctivitis, Ali picked up the first child he saw; in front of the cameras, he repeatedly mocked the way Frazier spoke and threw punches at a life-sized stuffed gorilla; away from the limelight, "The Greatest" sinisterly

stood below "Smokin'" Joe's hotel balcony brandishing a gun.

The defending champion Frazier had outfought Ali, then in his third fight back following a near four-year layoff for refusing, on religious grounds, to join the US army's war effort in Vietnam, at New York's Madison Square Garden in 1971's Fight of the Century; in their 1974 non-title rematch, an altogether more difficult sell, Ali earned a unanimous decision victory while nullifying Frazier's threat by repeatedly clinching amid the refusal of Tony Perez, the referee, to deduct points.

Eddie Futch, Frazier's decorated trainer, had been enraged by Perez's performance, accusing him of favouring Ali, and the fallout was such that even in the final hour before the opening bell, the identity of the third man in the ring remained unknown. King had brought three American referees to Manila but Futch rejected each, until in the final minutes the Philippines' Carlos Padilla (better known in the islands as an actor but respected outside of them as one of the world's finest refs) was accepted.

"The fight was at 10am in the morning," Hart explains. "The stadium had an aluminium roof, and there was no air conditioning. Not only was Manila a very hot and humid city, there were 20,000 ***** people in there. The heat was unbearable. They reckoned it was around 120 degrees in the ring, because of the TV lights as well.

"I've said again, and again, and again, and again: it must have been the most brutal heavyweight fight in history. They never stopped hitting each other. The reason it was such a great fight, if you like that sort of thing, is in my opinion they were both completely shot. They simply couldn't get out of the way, and so they virtually stood there hammering each other, round, after round, after bloody round."

For all of Ali's popularity in the fight's build-up, the Filipinos had warmed to the underdog and cheered Frazier into the ring – booing Ali – and what followed the opening rounds was equally unexpected.

"Either had the capacity to kill the other," according to Pacheco, and early on the champion sought the knockout, repeatedly landing accurate, concussive jabs and hurtful right hands and enjoying a level of success that only a fighter of Frazier's unique qualities could convincingly resist, and to which only one of Ali's would respond, as he did, by blowing kisses to those present.

The crucial turning point came when, no longer blessed with the unrivalled speed and reflexes that had once made him so elusive, Ali, largely standing flat-footed in the

IT WAS BRUTAL. THEY VIRTUALLY STOOD THERE HAMMERING EACH OTHER, ROUND, AFTER ROUND, AFTER BLOODY ROUND



THE GRUDGE:
Frazier [left] and Ali
clown for the cameras
but friendship did not
develop in retirement

centre of the ring and going toe to toe with perhaps the heavyweight division's most uncompromising-ever champion, took a vintage left hook to the chin.

For the following three rounds Frazier sought to pin him to the ropes and work his body, succeeding to the extent that the combination of the punishment the champion had absorbed, with the intense heat and his further declining mobility, had made the fight unexpectedly even.

"It was the most punishing heavyweight fight in history," Gene Kilroy, then Ali's business manager, told BN. "It was a murder fight, it ruined both fighters," a truth which owed much, no doubt, to the way in which Ali, against his raging rival's ongoing assaults, unearthed the most memorable demonstration of his will to wrestle away Frazier's momentum.

By the 12th, he had launched a merciless ongoing attack that included landing five uninterrupted punches and gradually taking the fight beyond the challenger.

A training accident had left Frazier, to the knowledge of only Futch and his fighter, with only partial vision from his left eye for the past 11 years and, already struggling to

detect right hands and bleeding from his beaten mouth, the swelling surrounding his right eye left him fighting on little more than desire and even less able to avoid the punishment that was coming his way.

The 14th round, the most brutal in the 51 between them, proved an extension of that as Ali's concussive combinations surged even deeper into Frazier's disfigured flesh and brought the fight's conclusion increasingly closer. It had been the greatest of fights between the greatest of fighters: that the challenger remained on his feet was a testament to not only his conditioning, but also his unrelenting spirit.

"Joe, I'm going to stop the fight," the compassionate Futch told his fighter after Padilla had helped guide him back to the corner, unaware – and unlikely to have cared – that at the same time Ali

was telling Angelo Dundee to cut his gloves from his hands because his exhaustion meant he simply couldn't go on.

"Sit down, son," he said over Frazier's protests, before adding the line as immortal as it was fitting.

"It's all over. But no one will ever forget what you did here today." BN



ALI'S STAGE FRIGHT

He may have been the self-proclaimed 'Greatest' in the ring, but not on the dance floor

"[ALI-Frazier] has to be the greatest rivalry [in boxing history]," *The Independent* on Sunday's Alan Hubbard, who was ringside in Manila, told *Boxing News*. "Certainly in post-war years. Particularly with the fact that it was so well publicised, globally, on television."

"Marcos [Ferdinand] had seen what happened in Zaire, and how [The Rumble in the Jungle, a year earlier] had put Zaire on the map. Of course, Don King, the great manipulator, thought, 'Where else is there a dictator who's got money to spare who would like to get some beneficial publicity for his nation?' Marcos was the obvious choice at the time; it was his money which subsidised the whole thing."

"Imelda, his wife, had this fantastic collection of shoes: a ball was organised before the fight, and Ali was to be the guest of honour. She put on her best dancing shoes and asked Ali for the first dance and he refused. The reason he refused – he didn't snub her – many people don't realise, he couldn't dance! Despite all that foot shuffling and everything in the ring, he could not actually dance, and so he declined. There was a little bit of a hiatus there but in the end everybody laughed it off. It was a fascinating insight into what was going on there."



FOCUSED:
Bellew is determined
to win a world title



STAR OF SCREEN AND RING

George Gigney speaks to Tony Bellew about world title chances, *Creed* and Nathan Cleverly

T

ONY BELLEW'S career has been something of a rollercoaster ride. A 2011 points loss to bitter rival Nathan Cleverly denied the Liverpool man in his first attempt at world light-heavyweight honours. After working his way back into contention, a sixth-round stoppage defeat to WBC light-heavy king Adonis Stevenson set Bellew

back again. He moved to cruiserweight, where he would avenge his loss to Cleverly and plant himself back onto the world scene. After a brief hiatus to film a role in the upcoming instalment in the Rocky film series, *Creed*, Tony is on the verge of what he feels will be his last crack at a world title.

It looks like you'll get another world title shot this year. Is that set?

I believe so. We've got everything in place and I'm preparing like it's my next fight. This will be my defining fight, the one that makes me. I've done the domestic grudge matches, I've done the world title eliminators, I've beat some great fighters, I've been in with top, top guys. I've served my apprenticeship and I'm ready to make a defining statement.

You've boxed for world titles against some of the top fighters around. That seems like more than an apprenticeship.

I achieved so much so quickly. Should I have been fighting for that first world title in my 16th fight [I had 12 – Nathan Cleverly]? No, I shouldn't have. Should I have been boxing 14 12-rounders on the spin? No. Fighters usually have comeback contests, eight or 10-rounders.

OK, I haven't won a world title yet but I've done a lot in a short space of time, and I'm determined to achieve what I set out to do and that's win a world title.

Do you see this as your last chance at a world title, should it come to fruition?

Absolutely. Nobody will want to promote or work with me if I lose the next world title fight. Don't get me wrong, there's been fighters who have fought for world titles three times, lost them and won on the fourth time but I don't want to be one of them.

My sole focus and goal is to win a world title at the third time of asking, at a weight that's much more comfortable and bearable for

me. I'm putting everything in place that will allow me to do that.

Mentally, physically I'm much better prepared than at any other point in my career. I'm much more experienced, and that's a massive thing. I've been through a lot of different things, court battles with promoters, management disputes, and I've had to fight with all that hanging over my head. I've been through a lot of things that would have finished other fighters but they haven't finished me, they've just made me stronger. I believe now is the best time for me to win a world title.

What's your reaction to Ovill McKenzie being given a shot at the IBF cruiserweight title against Victor Ramirez on Friday (October 2) after Yoan Pablo Hernandez was forced to vacate the belt due to injury?

I was offered the fight myself on two weeks' notice, which isn't ideal. The money didn't stack up either and going to Argentina [Ramirez's home country], it's not going to happen. Eddie [Hearn, Bellew's promoter] has spoken to the promoters in South America and we've got something in place to fight Ramirez in December if he beats McKenzie, which I think he will.

Are you happy for Ovill?

Yeah, I'm happy for the guy. He's a nice fella, I've dealt with him twice already. I can't really make a case for him winning. Ramirez has got solid whiskers, he works harder than Ovill and when Ovill gets hit hard, he tends to go into a shell and back into the journeyman mode, very similar to what happened in my second fight with him [we'd 12]. I think Ramirez will tag him early on, and Ovill will be content to lose on points, maybe he'll get stopped. It depends on what Ramirez turns up – he's not the most talented in the world but he's a good, solid pro

with a very high workrate.

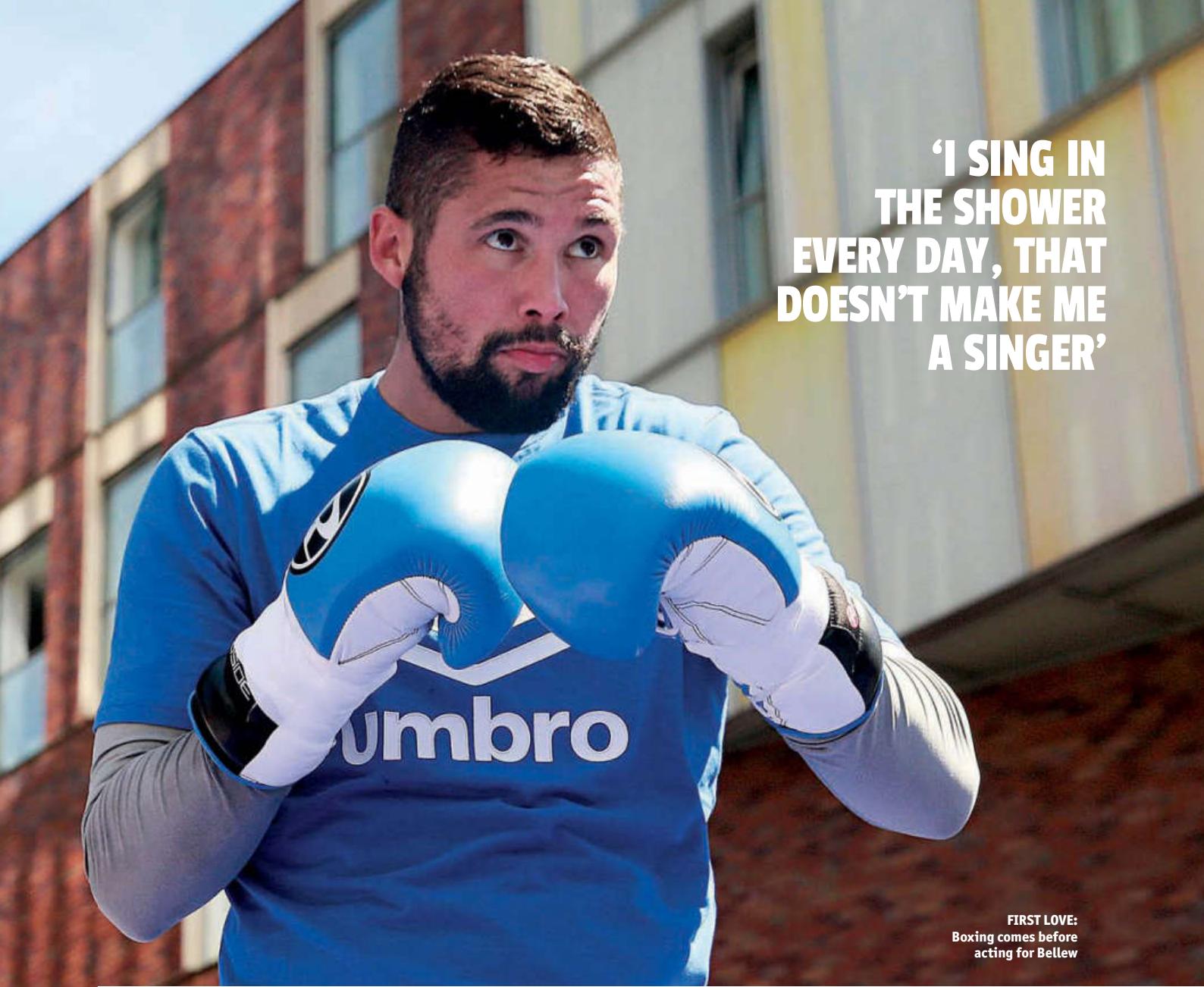
How disappointed are you that Hernandez had to vacate, given that you wanted to prove yourself against the best in the division?

I am a bit, yeah. I know it's through injury so it's just really tough, him being as good as he is and I see him as the best cruiserweight in the world, to keep getting injured. I just wish him a speedy recovery, as he's a fantastic fighter. ▶



CONTENT: Bellew is more comfortable at cruiser, compared to light-heavy

'THE MONEY DIDN'T STACK UP TO FIGHT RAMIREZ IN TWO WEEKS'



**'I SING IN
THE SHOWER
EVERY DAY, THAT
DOESN'T MAKE ME
A SINGER'**

FIRST LOVE:
Boxing comes before
acting for Bellew

► **Should he recover soon, would you still try and fight him?**

Absolutely, I'm all about fighting the best. If I get my hands on Ramirez in December, I firmly, 100 per cent know I'll beat him and then I'll happily go and fight Hernandez.

Should a fight with Ramirez in December materialise, would you consider travelling to Argentina for it?

I'd consider doing it, but I just think it makes better business sense if it were over here. There's no real money for it in Argentina. I'm not saying it has to be in Liverpool. London would be a bit more neutral, so I hope we can sort something out.

Would you fight again before December?

I've just had a 10-round contest [w/rf 10 – Ivica Bacurin] and an eight-round contest [w/rf 5 – Arturs Kulikauskis] so I've got nothing to gain by having another eight-rounder. I'm happy to fight in December next. I'm in the gym all the time.

You're starring in *Creed* and some people feel you're now moving away from boxing and toward acting. What is your reaction to that?

Ultimately it has made me more switched on. First and foremost I'm a boxer, I always have been. Just because you make one movie it doesn't make you an actor. If I go out dancing on Saturday night, it doesn't make me a dancer. I sing in the shower every day, that doesn't make me a singer. You can do things on a one-off occasion but that doesn't make you who you are. I've made a film,

‘IT WAS CRAZY BEING AROUND SYLVESTER STALLONE’

I can't say I'll never do it again but right now I'm purely looking at fighting. My sole goal is to become a world champion.

How did you come to be involved in the film?

The director, Ryan Coogler, had seen me, found me through certain YouTube videos, came over to the country, got to know me and it went from there. It was a crazy phone call when it first happened, they said, 'Do you want to be in a film with Sylvester Stallone?' I told them to do one. I thought they were winding me up. Everton had just lost 6-3 to Chelsea, I wasn't in the mood to be wound up on the

phone. It was crazy.

I could be a dud, I could look stupid on camera, I don't know. I think the movie will be a success and a great movie, the director is great, a very intelligent boy. But it's not for me to say, it's for the movie critics to judge it. Ultimately I did it because I got paid.

How was the experience?

It was crazy, strange but good at the same time, being around Hollywood stars like Sylvester Stallone and Michael B. Jordan. I'll forever be indebted to Ryan Coogler, he'll be a lifelong friend of mine.

You play a world champion in the film.

Yes, I play "Pretty" Ricky Conlan – obviously I didn't make that up, highly embarrassing name.

I want to win a world title like in the film, obviously. As a boxer, I want to be a world champion, in the movie I am the champion.

Photos: ACTION IMAGES



UPS AND DOWNS:
Bellev [above,
left] defeats old
foe Cleverly, but
loses to Stevenson
[below, left]



FINAL CHANCE:
Bellev believes his next
world title opportunity
will be his last

Mentally, obviously it makes me want to be that character for real, but I've wanted that since I turned professional.

Going back to your boxing career, would you say you've put your rivalry with Nathan Cleverly to bed?

I know I harp on about it, but I believe I beat him in the first fight, so I was just going over old ground when I beat him in the rematch. The only reason I took that fight is because it was personal, I detested the fella. Have I put it to bed? Yes I have, but I still don't like him. It's done with, let him go on with his career, good luck to him. It just proves that what I was doing at light-heavyweight was irrelevant.

The manner in which I beat him pleased me, I wasn't happy with the performance but I was happy to outwork the great cardio machine, the fantastic athlete that is Nathan Cleverly. All the talk was about how the fat kid will deal with this great athlete. I'm happy to be called a fat kid, deep down I'm always going to be that fat kid. I was 15 years of age and 15 stone. A bookmaker said that if Tony Bellew wins on points we will refund every bet placed, and they done it. I'm made up that I shoved one up their a***.

At cruiserweight, which fighters have you been looking at the most?

I'm just after a world title. I've always chased the best fighter in the division. I've beaten guys who people don't usually touch, Bob Ajisafe, Ovill McKenzie twice. I've been chasing Yoan Pablo Hernandez because he is regarded as the best

cruiserweight in the world, especially after Marco Huck just got dismantled [by Krzysztof Glowacki]. No one is going to want to fight a 6ft 4in Cuban southpaw who can punch a bit as well, but I want to do that I can go home to my city and stand on the f***** roof of my house and scream, 'I am the best cruiserweight in the world.'

What did you make of Marco Huck's loss?

I think he was foolish to go to America, he had a great set-up in Germany. He lost the fight because he went for the knockout and I think he did that because he was in America, looking to impress. In Germany, he would be content with just boxing for the rest of the fight and winning on points. I've never regarded him as someone who's very good technically. He makes up for it with heart, balls and desire. If anything, he's overachieved with the amount of successful title defences he's made [14].

Glowacki is a weak champion. He's very slow out the blocks, but he's very tough.

After your loss to Adonis Stevenson, did retirement ever cross your mind?

I've been number one in Europe for many years. There's nothing wrong with being at that level - I've just got aspirations for world titles. I believe I'm good enough to be a world champion. Time will tell if I actually am.

There's far better fighters who have never won world titles, never even got as far as I have. I've beaten better fighters than myself. Ultimately, I believe I can be world champion and I'll keep going until either that's realised, or the desire's beaten out of me. **BN**



OLD RIVALS:
Bellev [left] does not
fancy McKenzie's [right]
chances against Ramirez



HEAVYWEIGHT

over 200lbs/14st 6lbs

- 1 **VLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 64-3 (UKR)
- 2 **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** 29-1 (RUS) [above]
- 3 **DEONTAY WILDER** 35-0 (USA)
- 4 **KUBRAT PULEV** 20-1 (BGR)
- 5 **VIYACHESLAV GLAZKOV** 21-0-1 (UKR)
- 6 **BERMANE STIVERNE** 24-2-1 (CAN)
- 7 **CARLOS TAKAM** 32-2-1 (CMR)
- 8 **TONY THOMPSON** 40-5 (USA)
- 9 **TYSON FURY** 24-0 (ENG)
- 10 **BRYANT JENNINGS** 19-1 (USA)

CRUISERWEIGHT

200lbs/14st 4lbs

- 1 **KRYSZTOF GLOWACKI** 25-0 (POL)
- 2 **MARCO HUCK** 38-3-1 (GER)
- 3 **GRIGORY DROZD** 40-1 (RUS)
- 4 **DENIS LEBEDEV** 27-2 (RUS)
- 5 **VICTOR EMILIO RAMIREZ** 22-2 (ARG)
- 6 **OLA AFOLABI** 21-4-4 (ENG)
- 7 **FIRAT ARSLAN** 35-8-2 (GER)
- 8 **RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV** 24-1 (RUS)
- 9 **ILUNGA MAKABU** 19-1 (COD)
- 10 **TONY BELLEW** 25-2-1 (ENG)

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT

175lbs/12st 7lbs

- 1 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 2 **ADONIS STEVENSON** 27-1 (CAN)
- 3 **BERNARD HOPKINS** 55-7-2 (USA)
- 4 **JEAN PASCAL** 30-3-1 (CAN)
- 5 **JUERGEN BRAEMMER** 47-2 (GER)
- 6 **ANDRZEJ FONFARA** 27-3 (POL)
- 7 **ARTUR BETERBIEV** 9-0 (RUS)
- 8 **ISAAC CHILEMBA** 24-2-2 (MAW)
- 9 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 10 **ELEIDER ALVAREZ** 18-0 (COL)

SUPER-MIDDLEWEIGHT

168lbs/12st

- 1 **JAMES DEGALE** 21-1 (ENG)
- 2 **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** 43-4 (GER)
- 3 **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** 47-5-1 (GER)
- 4 **BADOU JACK** 20-1-1 (SWE)
- 5 **GEORGE GROVES** 21-3 (ENG)
- 6 **ANTHONY DIRRELL** 28-1-1 (USA)
- 7 **FEDOR CHUDINOV** 14-0 (RUS)
- 8 **ANDRE DIRRELL** 24-2 (USA)
- 9 **FELIX STURM** 39-5-3 (GER)
- 10 **GILBERTO RAMIREZ** 32-0 (MEX)

MIDDLEWEIGHT

160lbs/11st 6lbs

- 1 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-4 (PRI)
- 2 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 33-0 (KAZ)
- 3 **PETER QUILLIN** 32-0-1 (USA)
- 4 **ANDY LEE** 34-2-1 (IRL)
- 5 **DAVID LEMIEUX** 34-2 (CAN)
- 6 **DANIEL GEALE** 31-4 (AUS)
- 7 **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM** 31-2 (FRA)
- 8 **DANIEL JACOBS** 30-1 (USA)
- 9 **BILLY JOE SAUNDERS** 22-0 (ENG)
- 10 **CHRIS EUBANK JNR** 19-1 (ENG)

SUPER-WELTERWEIGHT

154lbs/11st

- 1 **SAUL ALVAREZ** 45-1-1 (MEX)
- 2 **ERISLANDY LARA** 21-2-2 (CUB)
- 3 **AUSTIN TROUT** 30-2 (USA)
- 4 **JERMALL CHARLO** 22-0 (USA)
- 5 **JERMELL CHARLO** 26-0 (USA)
- 6 **VANES MARTIROSYAN** 36-2-1 (USA)
- 7 **CORNELIUS BUNDRAKE** 34-6 (USA)
- 8 **CARLOS MOLINA** 22-6-2 (USA)
- 9 **ISHE SMITH** 27-8 (USA)
- 10 **WILLIE NELSON** 24-2-1 (USA)

WELTERWEIGHT

147lbs/10st 7lbs

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 32-1-1 (USA)
- 3 **KELL BROOK** 35-0 (ENG)
- 4 **AMIR KHAN** 31-3 (ENG)
- 5 **SHAWN PORTER** 26-1-1 (USA)
- 6 **MARCOS MAIDANA** 35-5 (ARG)
- 7 **KEITH THURMAN** 26-0 (USA)
- 8 **ROBERT GUERRERO** 33-3-1 (USA)
- 9 **DANNY GARCIA** 31-0 (USA) [above]
- 10 **BRANDON RIOS** 33-2-1 (USA)

SUPER-LIGHTWEIGHT

140lbs/10st

- 1 **LUCAS MATHYSSE** 37-3 (ARG)
- 2 **LAMONT PETERSON** 33-3-1 (USA)
- 3 **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV** 24-4 (RUS)
- 4 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 26-0 (USA)
- 5 **VIKTOR POSTOL** 27-0 (UKR)
- 6 **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** 19-1 (RUS)
- 7 **JOSE BENAVIDEZ** 23-0 (USA)
- 8 **ADRIEN BRONER** 30-2 (USA)
- 9 **MAURICIO HERRERA** 22-5 (USA)
- 10 **CESAR RENE CUENCA** 48-0 (ARG)

LIGHTWEIGHT

135lbs/9st 9lbs

- 1 **MICKEY BEY** 21-1-1 (USA)
- 2 **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** 35-4 (MEX)
- 3 **DEJAN ZLATICANIN** 21-0 (MNE)
- 4 **YURIORKIS GAMBOA** 24-1 (CUB)
- 5 **JORGE LINARES** 39-3 (VEN)
- 6 **KEVIN MITCHELL** 39-3 (ENG)
- 7 **DENIS SHAFIKOV** 36-1-1 (RUS)
- 8 **DARLEYS PEREZ** 32-1-1 (COL)
- 9 **ANTHONY CROLLA** 29-4-3 (ENG)
- 10 **TERRY FLANAGAN** 28-0 (ENG) [above]

SUPER-FEATHERWEIGHT

130lbs/9st 4lbs

- 1 **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** 23-0-1 (JPN)
- 2 **TAKASHI MIURA** 29-2-2 (JPN)
- 3 **FRANCISCO VARGAS** 22-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **JAVIER FORTUNA** 28-0-1 (DOM)
- 5 **BRYAN VASQUEZ** 34-2 (CRI)
- 6 **SERGIO THOMPSON** 30-4 (MEX)
- 7 **ROMAN MARTINEZ** 29-2-3 (PRI)
- 8 **ORLANDO SALIDO** 42-13-3 (MEX)
- 9 **EDEN SONSONA** 34-6-2 (PHL)
- 10 **JOSE PEDRAZA** 20-0 (PRI)

FEATHERWEIGHT

126lbs/9st

- 1 **NICHOLAS WALTERS** 26-0 (JAM)
- 2 **VASYL LOVACHEK** 4-1 (UKR)
- 3 **GARY RUSSELL JNR** 26-1 (USA)
- 4 **LEO SANTA CRUZ** 31-0-1 (MEX)
- 5 **SIMPWE VETYEGA** 27-3 (RSA)
- 6 **ABNER MARES** 29-2-1 (MEX)
- 7 **LEE SELBY** 21-1 (WAL)
- 8 **EVGENY GRADOVICH** 20-1-1 (RUS)
- 9 **JAYSON VELEZ** 23-0-1 (PRI)
- 10 **JESUS CUELLAR** 27-1 (ARG)

SUPER-BANTAMWEIGHT

122lbs/8st 10lbs

- 1 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 15-0 (CUB)
- 2 **CARL FRAMPTON** 21-0 (NIR)
- 3 **SCOTT QUIGG** 31-0-2 (ENG)
- 4 **NONITO DONAIRE** 35-3 (PHL)
- 5 **KIKO MARTINEZ** 32-6 (SPA)
- 6 **GENESIS SERVANIA** 26-0 (PHL)
- 7 **ALBERT PAGARA** 24-0 (PHL)
- 8 **REY VARGAS** 25-0 (MEX)
- 9 **JULIO CEJA** 30-1 (MEX)
- 10 **MANUEL AVILA** 18-0 (USA)

BANTAMWEIGHT

118lbs/8st 6lbs

- 1 **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA** 24-0-2 (JPN)
- 2 **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO** 17-0 (DOM)
- 3 **ANSELMO MORENO** 35-4-1 (PAN)
- 4 **JAMIE McDONELL** 27-2-1 (ENG)
- 5 **TOMOKI KAMEDA** 31-2 (JPN)
- 6 **RANDY CABALLERO** 22-0 (USA)
- 7 **LEE HASKINS** 32-3 (ENG)
- 8 **PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU** 51-3 (THA)
- 9 **RODRIGO GUERRERO** 23-5-1 (MEX)
- 10 **RAU'SHEE WARREN** 13-1 (USA)

SUPER-FLYWEIGHT

115lbs/8st 3lbs

- 1 **NAOYA INOUE** 8-0 (JPN)
- 2 **OMAR ANDRES NARVAEZ** 43-2-2 (ARG)
- 3 **CARLOS CUADRAS** 33-0-1 (MEX)
- 4 **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI** 36-4-1 (THA)
- 5 **ZOLANI TETE** 21-3 (RSA)
- 6 **KOHEI KONO** 30-8-1 (JPN)
- 7 **NORBERTO JIMENEZ** 22-8-4 (DOM)
- 8 **LUIS CONCEPCION** 33-4 (PAN)
- 9 **MCJOE ARROYO** 17-0 (PRI)
- 10 **DAVID SANCHEZ** 28-3-2 (MEX)

FLYWEIGHT

112lbs/8st

- 1 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 43-0 (NIC)
- 2 **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** 33-2 (MEX)
- 3 **AMNAT RUENROENG** 16-0 (THA)
- 4 **BRIAN VILORIA** 36-4 (USA)
- 5 **KAZUTO IOKA** 18-1 (JPN)
- 6 **JUAN CARLOS REVECO** 36-2 (ARG)
- 7 **MORUTI MTHALANE** 31-2 (RSA)
- 8 **AKIRA YAEGASHI** 22-5 (JPN)
- 9 **EDGAR SOSA** 51-9 (MEX)
- 10 **McWILLIAMS ARROYO** 16-2 (PRI)

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT

108lbs/7st 10lbs

- 1 **DONNIE NIETES** 36-1-4 (PHL)
- 2 **PEDRO GUEVARA** 26-1-1 (MEX)
- 3 **RYOICHI TAGUCHI** 22-2-1 (JPN)
- 4 **ALBERTO ROSSEL** 34-9 (PER)
- 5 **JAVIER MENDOZA** 24-2-1 (MEX)
- 6 **GANIGAN LOPEZ** 25-6 (MEX)
- 7 **REY LORETO** 20-13 (PHL)
- 8 **RAUL GARCIA** 36-3-1 (MEX)
- 9 **RANDY PETALCORIN** 23-1-1 (PHL)
- 10 **MILAN MELINDO** 32-2 (PHL)

STRAWWEIGHT

105lbs/7st 7lbs

- 1 **HEKKIE BUDLER** 29-1 (RSA)
- 2 **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN** 38-0 (THA)
- 3 **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA** 30-7 (JPN)
- 4 **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMATE** 11-0 (THA)
- 5 **CARLOS BUITRAGO** 28-1-1 (NIC)
- 6 **XIONG ZHAO ZHONG** 26-6-1 (CHN)
- 7 **KOSEI TANAKA** 5-0 (JPN)
- 8 **DENVER CUELLO** 36-5-6 (PHL)
- 9 **BYRON ROJAS** 16-2-3 (NIC)
- 10 **RICARDO PEREZ** 9-2 (MEX)

POUND-FOR-POUND

The best of the best

- 1 **MANNY PACQUIAO** 57-6-2 (PHL)
- 2 **VLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** 64-3 (UKR)
- 3 **ANDRE WARD** 28-0 (USA)
- 4 **TIMOTHY BRADLEY** 32-1-1 (USA)
- 5 **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** 15-0 (CUB)
- 6 **SERGEY KOVALEV** 28-0-1 (RUS)
- 7 **MIGUEL COTTO** 40-4 (PRI) [above]
- 8 **ROMAN GONZALEZ** 43-0 (NIC)
- 9 **GENNADY GOLOVKIN** 33-0 (KAZ)
- 10 **TERENCE CRAWFORD** 26-0 (USA)

- If a fighter has been inactive for over a year, he will not be included in the rankings, unless he has a fight officially scheduled.
- Each fighter is ranked on the results they have achieved in their own specific weight division (excluding the pound-for-pound list).
- A fighter cannot be ranked in a specific weight division until he has competed in that division.

OCTOBER**FRIDAY 2****Camden Centre, King's Cross
(London Live)**

Darryll Williams v Richard Horton (vacant Southern Area super-middleweight title); Tommy Tear v Ryan Hardy; Ramesh Ahmadi v Craig Derbyshire; Joshua Ejakpovi v s/o; Darius Skop v Gyorgy Novak; Matt Butler v s/o; Junior Saeed v Áron Szilágyi; Jordan Smith v Tamas Laska; Jordan Grannum v Dan Carr; Sam Cantwell v Stefan Slavchev; Onder Ozgul v s/o; Asinia Byfield v s/o; Aarron Morgan v Istvan Kiss; Elliott Matthews v Ferenc Hafner. (Promoter: Warrior Promotions).

**Villa La Ñata Sporting Club,
Buenos Aires, Argentina (BoxNation)**

Victor Emilio Ramirez (holder) v Ovill McKenzie (IBF cruiserweight title).

SATURDAY 3**Civic Hall, Wolverhampton (BoxNation)**

Tommy Langford (holder) v Christian Rios (WBO Inter-Continental middleweight title); Ryan Aston v Nathan Graham; Tyler Denny v s/o; Les Byfield v s/o; Josh Leather v s/o; Leon Woodstock v s/o; Josh Miller v s/o; Andrew Robinson v s/o; Macaulay McGowan v s/o; Raza Hamza v s/o. (Promoter: Queensberry Promotions & PJ Promotions).

Guild Hall, Preston

Mick Hall v Jack Arnfield. (Promoter: VIP Promotions).

Town Hall, Walsall

Tom Stokes v Luke Allon; Simon Bowater v Frank Greaves; Matt Gordon v Kamil Sokolowski; Jack Summers v Russ Midgley; Leon Brown v Andy Neylon; Luke Walker v Bryn Wain. (Promoter: Black Country Boxing).

**StubHub Center, Carson, California
(BoxNation & HBO)**

Lucas Matthysse v Viktor Postol (vacant WBC super-lightweight title); Antonio Orozco v Humberto Soto; Mercito Gesta v Martin Honorio; Julian Ramirez v s/o; Nicolas Arce v s/o; Marcelino Nicolas Lopez v s/o;

D'Mitrius Ballard v s/o. (Promoter: Golden Boy Promotions).

**U.S. Bank Arena, Cincinnati, Ohio
(Showtime)**

Adrien Broner v Khabib Allakhverdiev (vacant WBA world super-lightweight title); Jose Pedraza (holder) v Edner Cherry (IBF super-featherweight title); Robert Easter v Miguel Acosta; Jamel Herring v Yakubu Amidu. (Promoter: Warriors Boxing).

TUESDAY 6**Cowboys Dance Hall, San Antonio,
Texas (FOX Sports)**

Miguel Vazquez v Argenis Mendez; Julius Jackson v Jose Uzcategui. (Promoter: Leija Battah Promotions).

SATURDAY 10**Manchester Arena, Manchester
(BoxNation)**

Terry Flanagan (holder) v Diego Magdaleno (WBO lightweight title); Liam Smith v John Thompson (vacant WBO super-welterweight title); Jack Catterall (holder) v Jarkko Putkonen (WBO Inter-Continental super-lightweight title); Luke Blackledge (holder) v Lee Markham (Commonwealth super-middleweight title); Adrian Gonzalez v Jon Kays (vacant WBO European super-featherweight title); Vijender Singh v s/o; Thomas Stalker v Craig Evans; "Jimmy" Kilrain Kelly v s/o; Richard Towers v s/o; Jack Flattley v s/o; Dale Coyne v s/o. (Promoter: Queensberry Promotions).

York Hall, Bethnal Green

Johnny Coyle (holder) v s/o (Southern Area super-lightweight title); Ben Hall v s/o; Reece Bellotti v s/o; Isaac Chamberlain v s/o; Mickey O'Rourke v s/o; Craig Richards v s/o; Adam Salman v s/o; Jake Ball v s/o; John Ryder v s/o. (Promoter: Matchroom Boxing).

Newport Centre, Newport

Mitch Buckland v Ally Black (vacant Celtic super-lightweight title); Enzo Maccarinelli v s/o; Darren Pryce v Ricky Leach; James Todd v Christian Hoskin Gomez; Zack Davies v Michael Mooney; Alex Hughes v Kieron Grey; Bradley Pryce v

Lewis van Poetsch. (Promoter: Warrior Promotions).

Bank's Stadium, Walsall

Anthony Upton v s/o; Steven Pearce v s/o; Sam Evans v s/o; Reuben Arrowsmith v s/o; Manny Zaber v s/o; Craig Morris v s/o; Chris Keane v s/o; Kieran McLaren v s/o; Andy Keates v s/o. (Promoter: Black Country Boxing Promotions & Hatton Promotions).

El Poliedro, Caracas, Venezuela

Jorge Linares (holder) v Ivan Cano (WBC lightweight title); Dmitry Chudinov v Alfonso Blanco; Alexander Ustinov v Saul Farah; Robert Barrera v Carlos Canizales; Sergey Khomitsky v Alfonso Blanco. (Promoter: Jupiter Fight Boxing).

**Lowell Memorial Auditorium, Lowell,
Massachusetts (NBC)**

Danny O'Connor v Gabriel Bracero; Jonathon Guzman v Danny Aquino; Gary O'Sullivan v Francisco Cordero; Ryan Kielczewski v Rafael Vazquez; Stephen Ormond v Agustine Mauras. (Promoter: DiBella Entertainment & Murphys Boxing).

WEDNESDAY 14**Gila River Arena, Glendale, Arizona
(ESPN)**

Lee Selby (holder) v Fernando Montiel (IBF featherweight title); Devon Alexander v Aaron Martinez.

FRIDAY 16**Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh**

Anthony Cacace v Ronnie Clark (vacant Celtic super-featherweight title); Josh Taylor v Adam Mate; Connor Law v s/o; Jason Easton v s/o; Sam Ball v s/o; Grant Quigley v s/o; Josh Pritchard v s/o; Marco McCullough v s/o; Matthew Wilton v s/o. (Promoter: Cyclone Promotions).

The Glasgow City Hotel, Glasgow

Joe Ham v Michael Ramabeletsa; Barry Craig v Youssef Al Hamidi; Lewis Paulin v Qasim Hussain; Ryan Smith v s/o; Jamie McGuire v s/o; Scott McCormack v s/o. (Promoter: Alex Morrison).

UIC Pavilion, Chicago, Illinois (Spike)

Andrzej Fonfara v Nathan Cleverly; Kohei Kono (holder) v Koki Kameda (WBA world super-flyweight title). (Promoter: Warriors Boxing).

SATURDAY 17**Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham
(Sky Sports)**

Sam Eggington (holder) v Frankie Gavin (British & Commonwealth welterweight titles). (Promoter: Matchroom Boxing).

BOXING ON THE BOX**THURSDAY 1**

7.00pm BoxNation
Bunce's Boxing Hour

FRIDAY 2

8.00pm London Live
LIVE Darryll Williams
v Richard Horton

SATURDAY 3

2.00am BoxNation
LIVE Victor Ramirez v
Ovill McKenzie

7.00pm BoxNation
LIVE Tommy Langford
v Christian Rios

SUNDAY 4

2.00am BoxNation
LIVE Lucas Matthysse
v Viktor Postol

TUESDAY 6
9.00pm BT Sport 2
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RIO BECKONS

George Gigney previews the AIBA World championships in Doha, Qatar, where the boxing starts on Tuesday October 6

GREAT BRITAIN

WHILE British boxing continues to thrive in the paid ranks, GB's elite amateur team is looking to emulate that success on the world stage. The team is smaller than that which travelled to Kazakhstan two years ago for the last World championships, having lost several standouts such as Andrew Selby and Charlie Edwards to pro boxing.

The main objective of the tournament is of course to secure a place at Rio 2016, but with so few qualification places up for grabs, the competitors are up against it. However, the eight GB boxers in

Doha, Qatar are in fine form. An historic six medals at the European championships in August marked the best ever results by a team of boxers from the home nations in that competition.

Light-flyweight **Harvey Horn** was competing in his first senior European championships but triumphed over the number two seed, Dawid Jagodzinski, and narrowly lost to the top seed, Vasilii Egorov, to claim silver and bag himself a place in Doha.

Flyweight **Muhammad Ali** also claimed silver at his first European championships after dropping a decision to his division's number

one seed, Daniel Asenov. Neither boxer was able to medal at the inaugural European Games in Baku in June, however both have shown serious promise in their rapid rise to international level.

Commonwealth Games silver medallist **Qais Ashfaq** came close to qualifying for Doha when he won bronze at the European Games, but ensured his place in GB's World championship team by claiming bantamweight silver at the European championships.

Welsh lightweight **Joe Cordina** led GB's medal haul at the European championships, picking up the team's only gold medal.

"Winning the European championships gold has given me a lot of momentum and I'm on top of the world," he told *Boxing News*.

"I beat some top boxers at the Euros, like [Italy's number one seed] Domenico Valentino, and that's proven I can mix it at the top level. It's a tough tournament but I'm

confident I can go there and get a medal."

With Selby having recently turned professional, Cordina will not allow himself to be distracted by now being his country's leading amateur.

"I try not to think about where I stand in terms of Welsh amateur





boxing, but I think when people think of it they see me at the top level now, which is great," he noted.

"But I can't think about that pressure because with these big tournaments, there's already plenty of pressure anyway."

Washington super-lightweight **Pat McCormack** stormed to a European silver medal, and qualification for Doha, at his first major senior tournament, defeating Lithuania's 2012 Olympic bronze medallist Evaldas Petrauskas along the way.

"I can't wait to get over there and do the business, see what it's like over there and get my first fight out the

way, then get a medal and qualify for the Olympics," he told us.

"The Europeans were my first major tournament as a senior. I boxed an Olympic bronze medallist there, he was probably the best I've boxed, so I've mixed with top kids and I've beaten them. I think I made a statement there."

Having missed out on the World Series of Boxing (WSB) season through injury, welterweight **Josh Kelly** was an unexpected addition to GB's team in Baku earlier this year, but the 21-year-old seized the opportunity by claiming bronze and qualifying for the Worlds, having lost to the European Games' eventual

winner, Parviz Baghirov. His weight class has three Olympic qualification spots available, meaning the two finalists book their place at Rio and the two losing semi-finalists must compete in a box-off to determine who gets the last place.

"If you had told me that I would be here a couple of years back, I would have told you that you were daft," he said. "I'm so close to achieving my ambition of fighting at the Olympic Games."

"If you want to be the best, you have to prove yourself, and I intend on doing that. There are no easy draws in the World championships."

Another boxer to compete at both the European Games and championships was Croydon light-heavyweight **Joshua Buatsi**, who made up for his questionable exit from the former to grab bronze

at the latter. Experience in the WSB has also helped Buatsi mature.

Super-heavy **Joe Joyce** completes the squad, having been rested for the European championships alongside Kelly after his triumph in Baku. The big Londoner will be looking to better his performance at the last Worlds – an early exit due to a stoppage loss – but with only one qualification spot available in his weight class, Joyce needs to be at the top of his game.

FULL GB TEAM:

49kgs:	HARVEY HORN (England)
52kgs:	MUHAMMAD ALI (England)
56kgs:	QAIS ASHFAQ (England)
60kgs:	JOE CORDINA (Wales)
64kgs:	PAT McCORMACK (England)
69kgs:	JOSH KELLY (England)
81kgs:	JOSHUA BUATSI (England)
91&kgs;:	JOE JOYCE (England)



THE NUMBERS

Number of qualification spots in each weight class:

49kgs:	2
52kgs:	2
56kgs:	3
60kgs:	3
64kgs:	3
69kgs:	3
75kgs:	3
81kgs:	2
91kgs:	1
91+kgs:	1
Total:	23

260 Total number of boxers competing at the championships

0 The amount of times the championships have previously been held in the Middle East

18th These championships will be the 18th in history since they began in 1974

IRELAND

IRELAND also suffered some casualties to the pro game, most notably Jason Quigley, who claimed a World bronze two years ago. With Paddy Barnes sitting this tournament out, his place at Rio already in the bag, Ireland's team could be perceived as weakened – if it were not awash with such talent, that is.

Absurdly gifted bantamweight **Michael Conlan** has already qualified for Rio but travels to Doha in the hope of adding to his European and Olympic medals. The Belfast fighter excelled at the European championships, claiming gold and the Best Boxer award. Should he triumph in Qatar, the 23-year-old would be a significant step closer to confirming himself as one of Ireland's greatest ever amateur boxers.

Light-heavyweight **Joe Ward** became the first male Irish boxer to win two European gold medals when he triumphed in Bulgaria, adding to his 2011 gold, confirming his place at the World championships in the process. Ward won bronze in Kazakhstan two years ago, and looks to be in the sort of form which can see him medal again.

Photos: ACTION IMAGES

Brendan Irvine's light-flyweight silver at the European Games proved he is ready to mix at world level, while lightweight **Sean McComb** secured his place at the Worlds by winning bronze.

Dean Walsh claimed European super-lightweight bronze to earn his place in the Ireland team, while **Adam Nolan** just missed out on a welterweight medal but qualified for Doha having lost to the eventual European champion, Pavel Kastramin.

FULL IRELAND TEAM:

49kgs: BRENDAN IRVINE
56kgs: MICHAEL CONLAN
60kgs: SEAN McCOMB
64kgs: DEAN WALSH
69kgs: ADAM NOLAN
75kgs: MICHAEL O'REILLY
81kgs: JOE WARD

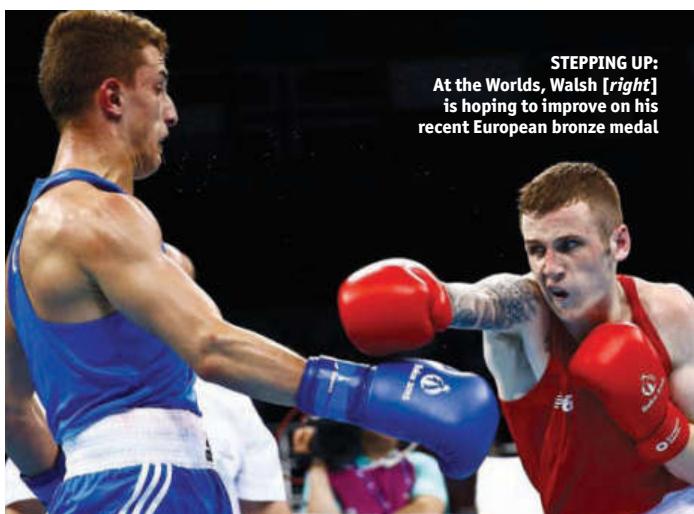
NOTABLE ABSENCES

Antony Fowler -

The Liverpool middleweight was one of two GB medallists at the last World championships, picking up bronze after a hand injury forced him to pull out of the competition before his semi-final contest. A shock early exit from this year's European Games in Baku meant he needed to qualify for the Worlds through the European championships, which took place in August. Another injury ruled him out of travelling to Bulgaria, meaning he could not qualify for these championships.

Paddy Barnes -

The Irish light-flyweight has already qualified for Rio 2016 after claiming the top ranking in the World Series of Boxing (WSB). The talented Belfast fighter opted out of both the European Games and championships, meaning he had no way of qualifying for these championships.



Photos: REBECCA EDGINTON/GB BOXING



CHASING GOLD

Promising bantamweight Qais Ashfaq is looking for the top spot in Doha

HOW is preparation going?

I'm carrying a couple of injuries, but what boxer isn't? They're just a couple of niggles, I'm managing them well. Preparation's been spot on, sparring's been going well, the weight's coming down, so I'm feeling really good.

You've had a very successful 12 months, how much confidence does that give you going into these championships?

Every time I go to a tournament I go for that gold medal. I've had a great 12 months, but I've always had a lot of confidence in myself and things are really coming together now. I won bronze at the European Games, silver at the European championships, so hopefully these World championships can be a gold. It's a qualifier for the Olympics, that's the reason we're going there. I always want a gold medal though, even if I won silver I'd probably not be that happy because I'd want the gold.

You represented the British Lionhearts in the latest season of the World Series of Boxing (WSB), has that experience helped?

WSB was good for me personally because it made me a better all-round fighter, made me a bit more rugged so when people try and rough me up a bit it helps me adjust and get around them.

Overall it did me a lot of good and that showed at the Europeans.

You lost to

Ireland's

Michael Conlan

in the European

championships

final. How badly

do you want

revenge and what

other boxers have

you been keeping an eye on?

I hope I do get to fight Conlan again because our last fight was nip and tuck - I thought I won it, a few people thought I won it but he got the decision at the end of the day, so I want revenge. I know I can beat him.

My weight class is one of the toughest categories. Cuba's Andy Cruz is on form, he won the Pan American games this year. There are some good kids but I know I'm up there with them and I can beat them all.

You keep in touch with Amir Khan. Has he given you any advice for the Worlds?

He always advises me on the usual stuff, to believe in myself and stick to my boxing. I always get the question over whether I'll turn pro before the Olympics, and he always told me to do the Olympics first because they're so

important, it helps you so much in the pro game. So that's my plan, to go to Rio and then turn professional. It helps to have a plan and map things out, it helps you visualise what you're going to do, how you're going to do it and it makes me feel more confident.

'I HOPE I GET TO FIGHT CONLAN. I WANT REVENGE. I KNOW I CAN BEAT HIM'



ONES TO WATCH

Lazaro Alvarez (60kgs, Cuba)

Daniyar Yeleussinov (69kgs, Kazakhstan)

Mohammadrasul Majidov (91&kgs, Azerbaijan)



PRIDE OF BRITAIN:
Try as he might
Ahumada [*right*]
can't keep Conteh
off of him



CONTEH CONQUERS THE WORLD

John provides a legendary night for British boxing, writes George Gigney

JOHN CONTEH'S performance against Jorge Ahumada at the Empire Pool in Wembley harked back to Randy Turpin's win over Sugar Ray Robinson 23 years previously, according to our report. The Merseyside light-heavyweight, then 23 years old, won the vacant WBC crown on referee Harry Gibbs' score of 147-142, but the Argentine brought out "the very best in Conteh."

Our reporter feared the visitor would prove too strong for Conteh down the stretch, but the Brit fought with "icy professionalism" throughout.

John's assertive jab proved decisive as it snapped Ahumada's head back, and he followed with an impressive variety of shots to regularly wobble Jorge.

Cheered on by compatriot Oscar Bonavena, Ahumada tried to walk

Conteh down, but the 28-year-old's face had begun to swell and mark up.

Although John looked to have sealed victory heading into the final round, Conteh bullied Ahumada to the ropes and pummelled away as the frantic crowd roared him on.

Conteh would go on to successfully defend his title three times before losing it to Mate Parlov via split verdict in 1978.

JOE SHOWS HIS POWER

ON Conteh's undercard, European heavyweight champion Joe Bugner produced the power "everyone was convinced he had" to dispatch Venezuelan Jose Luis Garcia in a non-title bout.

After Bugner received an ovation from the crowd, he said: "It was great to hear those cheers."

Our reporter described Bugner as "determined" and "purposeful" from the outset, dwarfing the visitor with aggression, despite only being 15lbs heavier.

Even in the first round, an early

finish looked likely. Garcia, "clearly not relishing the task in front of him," winced as Bugner's two-fisted attacks hurt him to the head and body.

As Joe upped his workrate in the second, Garcia's primary focus became survival.

Bugner pinned the Venezuelan into a corner and uncorked a huge left hook, flattening Garcia who could not beat referee Sid Nathan's count.

Less than a year later, Garcia was knocked out by Ken Norton.

LYLE HOPES FOR FRAZIER

AFTER his impressive eighth-round stoppage of Boone Kirkman, Ron Lyle looked set to meet ex-world heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, who had been ringside.

"Lyle has got to be rated a title contender," Frazier said.

Kirkman's trainer, Eddie Futch, "had his charge boring in like a bull", but Lyle's consistent body work and accurate head shots left their mark.

He left Kirkman "bloody and battered" before the attending physician, Dr Charles Grinstein,

halted the contest.

We reported that Frazier would wait for the outcome of the much-anticipated world heavy title clash between George Foreman and Muhammad Ali before deciding whether or not to fight Lyle next.

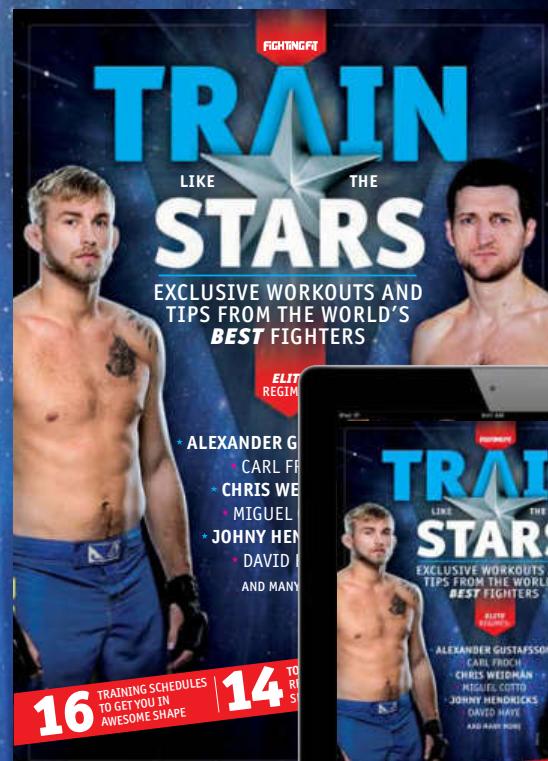
If the title looked to be tied up for another year or so, he would face Ron.

The pair would never meet however, instead they would both go on to suffer inside-the-distance losses to Muhammad Ali the following year.

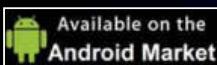
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LLOYD ELLETT

Paul Wheeler talks to a university graduate

When and why you started boxing:

After watching *Rocky* for the first time, I wanted to become a boxer. I was 14 years old when I started.

Favourite all-time fighter:

Sugar Ray Robinson and Sugar Ray Leonard. I like their style – so slick and powerful.

Best fight you've seen:

Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor I [from March 1990]. Taylor schooled him, but then got stopped with two seconds left [in the 12th and final round].

Personal career highlight:

It's a tie between boxing for England as an amateur, and signing a deal with Queensberry Promotions to fight on BoxNation.

Toughest opponent:

Willie McLaughlin, who I fought in the amateurs. A tough Irish lad – very strong and very good.

Best and worst attributes as a boxer:

My biggest strengths are my dedication to training and my work ethic. However, sometimes I can be guilty of doing too much in the gym and not resting enough.

Training tip:

Don't lose sight of what you're doing. Boxing is the most important part of training. You're not a runner or a weightlifter, you're a boxer.

Favourite meal/restaurant:

There's a Caribbean takeaway place just around the corner from me. I do like a bit of jerk chicken.

Best friends in boxing:

All the lads and my coaches at the iBox Gym in Bromley, and also my team in Brighton, including my manager, [ex-WBO heavyweight title challenger] Scott Welch.

Other sportsman you would like to be:

Photo: ACTION IMAGES/ANDREW COULDIDGE



FAST FACTS

Age: 28 **Twitter:** @Lightningbolt07 **Nickname:** 'Lightning Bolt'
Height: 5ft 10ins **Nationality:** English **From:** Brighton **Stance:** Orthodox
Record: 17-0 (4) **Division:** Super-welterweight **Titles:** n/a **Next fight:**
 Ellett fights in his hometown of Brighton against Ryan Toms on Friday (October 2).

'YOU'RE NOT A RUNNER OR A WEIGHTLIFTER, YOU'RE A BOXER'

Probably David Beckham. He seems to have the whole package going on!

Last film/TV show you saw:

Fast & Furious 7 at the cinema. It wasn't great.

Who would play you in a film of your life:

I'll go with Leonardo DiCaprio.

Have you ever been starstruck:

I was pretty speechless when I met Mike Tyson at a boxing show in Brighton.

Last time you cried:

I think I cried the last time I lost in the amateurs. It was in the ABAs.

Best advice received:

'You only get out what you put in.' I remember my manager Scott telling me that, and it's stayed with me.

Worst rumour about yourself:

I don't think I'm big enough in the sport for anyone to spread rumours about me. I've not heard any yet.

Something not many people know about you:

I've got a university degree. Not many people know that.

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